

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

Preserve significant open space by investigating, educating, planning, and cooperating.

MINUTES: Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Attending: Joe Calabrese, Marianne Ingrid Moner, Steve Lawson, Brian Fitzgerald, Jay Taylor, Judi Theocles, Ed McCorkindale, Susan Burk, Bill Shepard, Edna Colcord, Mike Pelletier, Tracey Plantier

Virtual Meeting Began: 7:00 pm | Minutes for Tuesday, June 30, 2020: Accepted

Motion: Mike | Second: Judi | Vote: 11/11

Correspondence – Joe:

- Joe announced that Emilie Hisgen is retiring from the Recreation Committee and from being the liaison to the Open Space Committee, a huge loss. Joe thanked her on behalf of all of us for being so proactive and helpful.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Final Sections: Section 5, 8 and 9 – Joe:

- Joe provided a review of all of the OSRP sections already completed (1 – 4, 6 and 7) and praised the group for what they accomplished. He explained that sections 1-5 are data compilations; whereas, sections 6 - 9 are conclusions and goals based on the data gathered.
- For section 5, Joe described the research that was done to update some 6000+ parcels of land and read a segment from section 5 describing the various types of land. He stressed the fact that Wilbraham still has a balance of developed and undeveloped land.
- Section 8 describes the goals of the OSRP which were derived from the data in the previous 7 sections. Joe explained how the goals were arrived at and read parts of the section.
- Joe explained that section 9 includes the 7-year timeline, the culmination of all of our research, interviews, and survey results. Sue brought up the likelihood of a plan changing and suggested reevaluating the goals periodically to avoid missed opportunities. Joe agreed and will add such language to the timeline. We will revisit section 9 in our October meeting.
- In November and December, we'll review the survey results that Mike has compiled and add them to the OSRP appendix. Lastly, Sue volunteered to contact John Walsh, ADA Coordinator to request paperwork for all ADA recreational facilities, also for our appendix. Our goal is to finish the plan by the end of the year.

Nominations for OSRPC Chair and Recording Secretary - All:

- Mike nominated Joe to be OSRPC Chair for the 20 – 21 term. Joe is willing to continue to be the Chair until the plan is finished and approved by the State. Then he feels that we need a new Chair with new ideas. Steve made a motion to elect Joe, Tracey 2nd, Vote: 11/11.

- Edna nominated Marianne to continue as Recording Secretary. Marianne is willing – Motion Tracey, Edna second, vote: 11/11.

Hollow Road Rice Parking Area – Tracey:

- Tracey showed pictures of the finished parking area, which will fit approximately 5 cars, and should take some pressure off of the Highmoor Drive parking area. Hollow Road, itself, is flat, grassy and easily walkable. It also provides access to the Rice Preserve via Sunrise Peak.
- Joe said there is no signage yet, but it will be added. Melissa Graves said that the road to the lot will be paved at some point. John Broderick (audience) said he drove down to the Hollow Road lot and it looked amazing. John also praised the Open Space Committee for its hard work.

Twelve Mile Bridge – Tracey:

- We're just waiting on the final build at the factory; the bridge should be shipped within a week or two. The brook is very low so the timing is good to install it.

Gleason Land – Steve:

- Work on completing the purchase of the land continued through the summer and is hoped to be closed this Friday.
- There are three viable points of access. Steve will work with Joe on GPS-ing the trail and creating the webpage.

Girl Scouts - Ed:

- The Girl Scouts have asked us to take them on a nature trailwalk on Alton's Way. Ed, who successfully did this with eighth grade students in the past, has volunteered to do it. Hopefully, it can happen before winter.

Trailwork Update – Jay:

- Sawmill - is open to the public again and clear after substantial tree damage from storms has been cleared. Local townspeople came in to assist.
- Citizen's Bank is not able to provide help at Thayer at this point.
- Other trails are in pretty good shape currently.
- Bog bridge improvements at Oakland are still on hold. Usable wood is needed. Thayer has a bridge that needs work also. Tracey doesn't think there's any wood available at Fountain Park. Tracey said Cedar wood is recommended because it's rot resistant.
- Joe said that algae will be checked at Sawmill in October. Sue asked about Spec Pond; Joe said they check that regularly. Judi noticed an increase in lily pads.

Signs – All:

- The signs have been held up pending the creation of a logo. Marianne said she has worked again on some logos and will present them at the October meeting.

Back Burner – Map/Kiosks/Regional Conservation Partnership Gathering - All:

- The foldout map of Town trails is still on hold due to the other projects going on now.
- Joe said there are lots of opportunities for online conferences. Tracey mentioned a conference in October or November. She will send details.

New Business - All:

- Tracey mentioned an irate Oakland abutter's complaint about an off leash dog. Tracey reached out to her but has not heard back. Mike mentioned that we still have no signage or kiosk at Oakland. Signs will go up as soon as we have them. Jay said signs about dogs and vehicles were put up but have since been taken down. Evidentially, signs need to be placed higher.

Audience of Citizens: none

Next Meeting Date – October 27, 2020

Adjourn: 8:20 pm Motion: Steve Second: Judi Vote: 11/11