

WILBRAHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Mission Statement:

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

MINUTES: Tuesday, October 27, 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, September 29, 2020: Accepted

Motion: Brian | Second: Tracey | Vote: 11/11

Correspondence – Joe:

- OSRPC received an email offering a 10 acre lot at the base of the Sunrise Peak trails for sale - five acres in Wilbraham and five in Hampden Joe and Steve will look into it.

Open Space and Recreation Plan: Section 9 – Joe:

- Joe explained that Section 9 is the end of the entire report and brings us to the 7-year plan He then reviewed the plan's timeline year by year.
- Joe pointed out how plans can change as unexpected things come up such as the Gleason land and the need for the Hollow Road parking lot. As a result, we should spread out our goals so that we have room to address the unexpected.
- Sue wanted “no later than” dates for goals. Joe explained that the goals were just guidelines. They could be started earlier if circumstances warranted it such as with the Hollow Road parking lot.
- Steve asked how the goals align with the survey responses. Mike and Joe, who have collected and read all of the surveys, worked on including survey feedback in the goals. Mike mentioned the main resident comments in the surveys and pointed out that some requests, like a new senior center, fall out of our purview. Mike will explain the survey results in detail at our next meeting, and they will be in the OSRP appendix.
- Bill felt that, because of the current wave of interest in OSRPC Facebook postings on our trails that improved signage is more urgent. We are working on that.
- Tracey thought that some goals need to be reviewed by other committees in order for them to be included. Joe agreed that we need to connect with other committees and explained that we will do so in the beginning of next year once the OSRP draft is done.
- Tracey also mentioned that, with a 7-year plan, we need the next-to-last year as well as the final year to get everything together. Joe will make the change in the 7-year plan.
- Tracey also pointed out confusion about the solar farms and suggested removing the example as the solar farms are regulated by the state. Joe will remove it.

Logos – Marianne:

- Everyone agreed green was a good color for our overall branding and liked the idea of keeping text minimal. Next mockups will include a simple graphic and text to include trail names and either Wilbraham or Wilbraham, MA, thus leaving room for other logos or text once we coordinate with other committees and with Melissa. The sign logo will also be used for our Facebook page and possibly will include OS text.

Twelve Mile Bridge/Monson Trail – Tracey:

- The new bridge was supposed to ship last week, but there hasn't been confirmation. Tracey wrote to Melissa, but she hasn't heard back.

Gleason Land – Steve:

- We closed on the Gleason property two weeks ago and it is now owned by the town. Joe made a GPS map of it; it is about a mile and half out and back. Steve thinks the end of Inwood would be the best entrance. Wilton and Westwood are also possible. Bellows Road is at the other end and can't be used until the cul-de-sac small parcel is donated to the Town. It will take a while until everything is ironed out. When the trail is ready, we will put up a webpage with information.
- Steve said he's willing to take anyone out who wants to check it out.
- Tracey mentioned marking it, but Steve isn't sure we need to as it is straight out and back, but we will perhaps need signs directing hikers in confusing spots with spur trails.

Hunting Information – Joe and Tracey:

- We got lots of feedback on Facebook on our postings on hunting. Tracey said nobody seemed to know it was hunting season. Joe pointed out the rules are confusing, and next year we should make improvements to our announcement.
- Tracey wondered if rules are established without thought to the trails. Rules, wearing orange, maps - should be posted at the kiosks. Sue explained how the hiking group approached hunting season - a blanket rule - orange should be worn.

Trailwork Update – Jay:

- Trailwork has been very effective especially given the damage lately – lots of downed trees. Jay received a text from Chris Brown about three massive trees leaning at Thayer Brook are actually firmly lodged but pose no immediate threat. A plan to deal with leaning trees is needed, however.
- Jay said that as long as we have some consistency in attendance, small groups should be ok for now. We will continue to go out each week at least for the next month.
- Bill asked if Jay heard from the Wilbraham Monson Academy, but Jay has not. Bill received a voicemail that a spring crew may be available. Jay or Bill should hear by Thanksgiving.

Back Burner – Signs/Girl Scouts/Map/Kiosks – All:

- We have not heard from Jennifer, the Girl Scout leader. Jay saw her at Alton's and introduced himself. She has been overwhelmed and has not been in touch with Ed about a nature trail lesson. Jay gave her his number and said when she's ready to give him a call.

New Business – All:

- Joe requested any pictures for the town report, or at any other time for him to have on hand.
- Tracey pulled the story walk and the riddle walk, and created a temporary Halloween riddle walk.

Audience of Citizens: None

Next Meeting Date – December 8, 2020

Adjourn: 8:24 pm **Motion:** Tracey **Second:** Mike **Vote:** 11/11