

Present: Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow

Absent: Cary LeBlanc, Kelton Burbank

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes from October were approved.
2. Landowner Information Session:
 - a. We received one query from our mailing from Bruce Stuart, regarding his land which is mostly under the Onion Patch in East Princeton.
 - b. Karen will follow up with an eMail to see what they are interested in.
3. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update and Trails Committee Update
 - a. Goodnow Park
 - Cary has the ball, will organize a walk through
 - We had a visitor for our meeting, Patrick O'Shaughnessy, who would like to be involved in improvements to Goodnow park. MHConstruction82@Outlook.com and 978-729-0697. Cary should contact him at the appropriate time.
 - b. No further progress on the Gleason Road trails.
 - c. We are waiting to hear from Kelton about discussions with Ted Goodnow regarding use of his property for trail between PLT land and Whitaker Lane.
 - d. Trail work on PLT Alexander property still waiting DCR RDA review.
 - e. Appell property: Rick has laid out some trails. PLT will be reviewing them this weekend in advance of an RDA. This could help to provide a link to Brooks Station Road.
 - f. Rick still needs to create a master list of the envisioned trail segments and status. Next meeting?
4. Calamint Hill Conservation Area Trails:
 - a. Trail stewards cleared the East Side trail last Sunday. 13 volunteers! Still need to do the wetlands and the bridges (plus signage, benches, etc).
 - b. Rick is meeting with DCR this week to discuss some possible simplification options, including stepping stones and more permeable bridge surface. Also to discuss possible use of tractor to help with wetland replication.
 - c. Justin Griffin and Christian Henderson will work on Bridge designs and costs.
5. Princeton Hikes! Program:
 - a. Rick reviewed the last four hikes (Midstate Trail from Rutland to Barre, Cranberry hike at Wachusett Reservoir, South side of Wachusett, and Bickford Pond (COA) and the plans for the next two months (Poutwater Pond from Esty Rd (COA), Monoosnoc to Rocky Pond, Red Fox farm from Mason Road, Hog Hill, Rail Trail from Glenwood Road (COA).
 - b. Rick is going to be trying harder to find some addition hike leaders.
6. Open Space Plan
 - a. Rick has developed a draft of section 3, Community Setting. Will make a few finishes and send for review.
 - b. Karen is working to collect data on Section 4, Environmental Inventory and Analysis. Will have a draft for next meeting. The Natural Heritage website might be helpful on this piece.
 - c. Cary has indicated that he will be able to complete a draft of Section 5, Inventory of Lands, over his winter Christmas winter break. This extends our plan a bit but we agreed that it is OK.

- d. Rick will also dig into Section 2, introduction.
- e. Rick has arranged with Town Administrator Sherry Patch to explain the purpose, scope and process for the plan to the select board on December 10th. Will advise on time. Asked for 15 minutes.
- f. Also arranged for a meeting with Hollie Lucht for Wednesday November 20th.
- g. We discussed the advisability of doing a planning session with representatives of town groups that should be involved in setting plans. To include: ConCom, Parks and Rec, Historical Society, COA, Highway Department. Also how to get input from special interest groups including bikers (Kelton?) Snowmobilers, and horses (Deb?). Planning session might be done in January in advance of the public hearing. Maybe a two hour session to explain the plan and solicit ideas for action items. We will discuss more and plan for this at our December meeting.
- h. Rick has circulated a proposed survey for the OS Plan. This looks ready to go but we will need to figure out how to best distribute it. Electronic is good and easier to analyze, but it doesn't get to everyone. May need to mail plus electronic. Will review with Select Board before we send it out.
- i. Also plan for Town Buzz in January?
- j. Focus for next meeting will be to review work to date, and to plan out meeting with committee reps.

7. Conferences

- a. Karen reported on the sessions that she attended at the Trails Conference earlier in November. Several interesting session on trail access for disabilities, New England Trail, and snowmobiler view of trails.

8. Presentations

- a. Trails presentation at the library was well received and we had about 30 participants. May do it again next year??

9. Summary of Work-to-do

- a. All: continue working on Open Space Plan and prepare first draft for December meeting of sections 2,3,4, and 6. Section 5 for January meeting.
- b. Cary: Setup walkthrough of Goodnow Park for OSC members.
- c. Karen: Communicate with Bruce Stuart regarding query about land conservation programs.
- d. Kelton will talk to Ted Goodnow about use of his property for trails.
- e. Rick trails committee meeting and continued work with ConCom and DCR on CHCA trails.
- f. Rick to summarize TAP segments, options, and status for review next meeting.

10. Other items

- a. Cary asked if we would be interested in arranging for some training on trail development. Answer is YES, would like to see what options he has. There are other options for this. We would include the trail steward group.
- b. Rick mentioned that he is joining MRPC on invitation from Sheri Bean.
- c. We discussed OSC budget and agreed to stick with \$500 for 2020. We may find that with trail activity we could use some extra money. We will need to do the mailing of the survey this year, plus some signage.
- d. **VOTED:** to spend money (around \$100) for a sign specifying restrictions for the CHCA trails.

11. Next meeting: December 17. Rick will check with Ginger on room availability. 7PM in the Annex.

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner

Attachment: Open Space and Recreation Plan Update due 2020

Step 1: (Karen) Review old update **by OSC meeting on October 17, 2019.**

Step 2: (All OSC members) Divide sections between committee members (there are nine, not including maps and other documents that will be added to it) in October at the OSC meeting. First drafts **due January 2020 OSC meeting.**

Step 3: (Rick with OSC input) A public survey. **November/December 2019.**

Step 4: (Karen) Try to find updated flora/fauna data since ours is over a decade old. Karen will check with Wachusett Meadow and Brian Keevan and other sources. **Due for OSC meeting November 2019.**

Step 5: (Rick) Include Parks & Rec in the conversation. Perhaps they could update our inventory of municipally-owned conservation and recreations properties. (For the previous one, Karen reviewed all of our playgrounds only: Krashes Fields, the park behind the center school, Sawyer Field and Thomas Prince School grounds. Perhaps this time we should include Calamint Hill West trails and Goodnow Park.) **Fall 2019.**

Step 6: (All OSC members with P&R) A public meeting in the town hall annex. **January 2020.**

Step 7: (Rick?) Gather data from public input and fold that into reports. **January 2020.**

Step 8: (Karen) Complete document and request maps from CMRPC. Send to OSC for edits. **February 2020.**

Step 9: Send to state. Wait for either approval or suggestions for additional information and re-edit. **March 2020.**