

Present: Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow, Cary LeBlanc

Absent: Kelton Burbank

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes from November were approved.
2. Landowner Information Session:
  - a. Karen followed up with an eMail to two people who had requested additional information. This completes work on this topic.
3. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update and Trails Committee Update
  - a. Goodnow Park: Cary has the ball, will organize a walk through
  - b. No further progress on the Gleason Road trails. Rick has the ball.
  - c. Connection between PLT Peabody and Whitaker Lane: Kelton will discuss with Ted Goodnow.
  - d. Trail work on PLT Alexander property still waiting DCR RDA review (PLT project).
  - e. Appell property: Trail has been laid out and PLT walkthrough was completed. Awaiting RDA (with public hearing) which is planned for January.
  - f. Rick completed documentation of the segments of the 'trail around Princeton' and options that have been discussed. Once we have the Open Space and Rec plan update under control we will go back to each segment and proceed. Everyone is encouraged to add to the PowerPoint sent by Rick.
4. Calamint Hill Conservation Area Trails:
  - a. Rick, Justin and Christian worked out a new bridge design, and Rick reviewed in concept with DCR, who is interested in reviewing the changes in detail. Next steps are to review with concomm and DEP and then file an amendment to everyone for formal approval if people generally agree with the proposal. The new plan simplifies the design, reduces the wetland impact and replication requirements, and lowers the cost of the bridges and ongoing maintenance.
  - b. The Boy Scouts may be interested in doing the signage for the trails (Rick has been working with Terry Bass). Now working to finalize the sign specification.
  - c. Trail work will resume in the spring with completion of the bridges and the wetland trail.
5. Princeton Hikes! Program:
  - a. Rick reviewed the last four hikes (Poutwater from Esty Road – COA, West St in Leominster to Rocky Pond Road, South Wachusett out past Mountainside Café, which was not yet open). The next hikes are: Hog Hill, Southwest Wachusett hike which will go past the now-opened Mountainside Café, and a Senior hike that will be a shorter route around by Mountainside Café.
  - b. Rick is going to be trying harder to find some addition hike leaders.
6. Open Space Plan
  - a. Sections 2 and 3 are out for review. All members are asked to review and comment (see Rick's eMail)
  - b. Section 4: Karen has begun to pull information together for this.
    - Has gone through EAC report and pulled action items of interest, and
    - Has been working with Cindy Dunn on inventory of plants/wildlife in Princeton.
    - Question: do we want to list all rare species? Answer: we want to meet the requirements by the state. Additional information can be added to an appendix.
  - c. Cary is working on draft of section 5. Has been using a couple of databases of Princeton land parcels.

- d. We met briefly with the Select Board to review our plan and the survey, and they have allowed us to piggyback our survey in the census mailing, a huge help!! Will go out by end of year. Rick will be tabulating and analyzing results.
- e. Karen and Rick met with Hollie Lucht who has said that she will be happy to be interviewed but does not need to work on the committee to drive the process.
- f. We need to schedule a planning session. This session will review results of the survey and our drafts of sections 2-6, and we will ask them to help brainstorm for activities to be included. Groups/people to include are as follows, with the committee members who will contact them:
  - ConCom – Brian Keevan (Rick)
  - Parks and Rec - Hollie and Kelton (Karen)
  - Historical Society - Bud Brooks (Rick)
  - COA – Aimee Kindorf (Deb)
  - EAC – Clair Golding (Karen)
  - Wachusett Meadow – Cindy Dunn (Deb)
  - Princeton Land Trust – Tom Sullivan (Rick)

For these people, first step is to contact them personally to explain the project and solicit their help, and also to figure out when in late January or early February they would be available for the workshop. Then we will coordinate together to set a date/time.

Karen has an invitation letter that we will send to the above people once we have gotten their buy in. She will send out to all of us for comment.

- g. A second activity, to be done after the workshop, is to meet with some key people who can help us to implement our plan, once activities have been drafted. This will include:
  - Highway Department.
  - DCR (wetland, parks, and fish and wildlife)
  - Fitchburg Water
  - Worcester Water
  - Also revisit with Wachusett Meadow
- h. Rick will contact Karen Cruise to arrange for us to host a town Buzz in February (after the workshop)

## 7. Presentations

- a. John Mollica has agreed to do a presentation on the Clinton North Dike, which will be the location of a spring Princeton Hike. Rick will work with him to schedule this at the Library.

## 8. Summary of Work-to-do

- a. All: Review sections 1 and 2 which have been drafted by Rick and forward comments.
- b. All: continue working on Open Space Plan and prepare first draft for January meeting of sections 4 and 5 for January meeting.
- c. Karen will send out the letter inviting the committees to participate. We will comment on the letter and return to Karen. This letter will go out after we get agreement to participate.
- d. Contact committee people as noted above and coordinate the scheduling of the Plan work meeting.
- e. Cary: Setup walkthrough of Goodnow Park for OSC members.
- f. Kelton will talk to Ted Goodnow about use of his property for trails.
- g. Rick trails committee meeting and continued work with ConCom and DCR on CHCA trails.
- h. All: Review the PowerPoint document sent by Rick of TAP segments, options, and status and send comments/ideas to Rick

## 9. 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. We need to discuss this at next meeting?

10. Next meeting: To be determined

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 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.**