

Open Space Committee Minutes

September 13, 2020

Present: Rick Gardner, Cary LeBlanc, Deb Cary

Alternate: Susan Downing

Absent: Kelton Burbank, Karen Rossow

Meeting began at 7:05 pm on Goto Meeting.

1. Minutes of August 11 meeting were approved.
2. Open Space and Recreation Plan:
 - a. Completed and approved by the state.
 - b. Rick will arrange for copies per our discussion in June.
3. TAP
 - a. Trail Vision and Action Plan
 - Rick Reviewed a draft Powerpoint to be used to introduce the project. Several modifications were made to scope, objectives, dimensions. We agree that a survey is warranted to provide input to the vision. Also, we feel that the timeline as drafted is too optimistic.
 - We have 11 people on board to participate including two select board members and one rep from the road committee. We think it is a good team. We will want to review with some other key people like Senior Center and Concom but may not need a full study participant from those groups.
 - b. TAP Segments
 - Goodnow Park: Cary and Deb walked the park and discussed ideas earlier today. Cary will set up another walkthrough to walk planned paths and prepare a map with plans. Rick will track the routes and create maps. Then we can review the ideas with Parks and Rec, ConCom, and town management to get a green light.

- Red Fox Farm: No change in the past month/ We are still planning to work with Walcotts but need to wait and see on another possible approach through Princeton Land Trust.
- Sam Cobb: Rick, Deb, and Charlie are exploring trails and options. We have verbal approval from all landowners in that area. Some concerns have been expressed on the Sam Cobb Road side, but we believe it makes sense on focusing work now on the Worcester Road side, since bridging Sam Cobb Brook is a pretty substantial project and we think there are some easy 'wins' to be had on the Worcester Road side.
- Deb has engaged a new neighbor to explore options between Bullock Lane and Thomas Prince School. Rick is working to engage.

4. Trail Map: Following up on Kelton's suggestion last meeting, Rick is now looking at using Open Street Map as a repository for information and mapping of TRAILS, and to use AllTrails as a repository for hiking/biking routes. Both of these tools are widely used. Still some questions about AllTrails to work through. Rick has begun to add PLT and town trails to Open Street Map.
5. Princeton Hikes are working well. All well attended by about 20 people (the max size) but have not had to turn people away. Next up is a hike to Calamint Hill Conservation Area this Saturday. Deb volunteered to help lead the hike. Rick will check with Susan and Karen to see if they will join. Late Sept hike is in West Boylston, on the south shore of Wachusett Reservoir.
6. Calamint Hill Conservation Area. Some progress, and hope to pick up the pace in September.
 - Fix for issues with the first bridge has been designed and Christian will be ordering a new span for the first crossing and the span for the second crossing.
 - Phil O'Brien has settled on design for the kiosk and Rick is working to get printing cost. Then we will get ConCom approval for content. Rick showed the thinking on content.

- Boy scouts are nearly complete with directional signs and Rick will be walking the route with them to look at sign posting locations. We looked at the signage plan.

7. Next meeting: Plan for October 13. Need to decide whether to stay on-line or to meet in person. Rick will poll the group.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

9. Summary of outstanding to-do items:

- a. Rick: Obtain OSRP Copies. Marie will help.
- b. Rick: Set up and conduct first meeting of the Trail Visioning and Action Plan project
- c. Rick: Continue analysis of Trail Mapping plans
- d. Trail Action Plans:
 - Deb and Tom are going to focus on trying to figure out the Bullock Lane to TPS link.
 - Cary is going to schedule a walkthrough of Goodnow Park to map out planned routes and prepare for review by town groups.
 - Rick to continue design of Red Fox link from Worcester Road to PLT Red Fox property.
 - Rick and Deb to work on designs for Sam-Cobb to Worcester Road trails.
 - Follow up with Nimrod Club: Per WPI recommendation, Rick will follow up with Chris Craig.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Gardner