

Open Space Committee minutes for May 11, 2021

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

Absent: Kelton Burbank

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes were approved for the April OSC meeting.
2. Earth Month: Completed. 100% of all roads, parks, and trails were reported complete. Laurie Kraemer donated funds for two prizes. A lot of enthusiasm from the town, and many new families took part.
3. Trails Presentation: Rick will do a presentation for the library on May 12 at 7 on trails in the towns surrounding Princeton. Both presentations are recorded and links have been provided on the OSC website, trails page.
4. Vision and Action Plan: We reviewed the Action plan and discussed status of the items:
 - Trail network development
 - We have a plan of 2021 activities
 - Great progress on Cobb Brook trail. Open for business although we still have some signage activities to finish. Will be an article in May RR News welcoming people to try it out. Additional spurs were developed to a second beaver pond and to the back of the Mountain Barn. Great feedback so far.
 - Did a ConCom walkthrough of Red Fox trails. Have an NOI prepared and ready to file but missed the time lines for the May ConCom meeting...will shoot for June. Also need an RDSA for trails on PLT property.
 - Signage
 - New kiosks for Bullock McElroy should be up by end of month. PLT and the town are paying for the signs and new kiosk for Krashes side donated by Joe DiFranza and Phil O'Brien.
 - They are also working on Kiosks for Cobb Brook and TPS nature trails
 - Rick has completed artwork for the Cobb Brook sign and working on Four Corners. On Four Corners, we are working with Steve Stimson, who wants to donate material and labor for a new kiosk.
 - We also have a plan for junction signs at Cobb Brook and will work on same for Bullock McElroy in the next month.
 - Documentation and Signage
 - Cary provided a proposal for new format for hike-specific pages and he will begin to rewrite pages into the new format. Need to add maps to planned format and also figure out how to best add historical and environmental information.
 - He will also be sending out something about overall site design (which pages, and browsing hierarchy). May need another sub-committee meeting.
 - Princeton Hikes! Was re-launched on May 8th with new promotional procedure that attracted more Princeton people. We had 14 of 17 people from town, and all enjoyed the hike through PLT properties. Next hike will be promoted further through town news and will go through CHCA. Karen and Susan volunteered to help lead. We will add a Sunday hike if we get a lot of people, to try to keep the group sizes to ten or so.
 - Library presentations on Princeton trails are being done, as noted above.
 - Trail Summit – Rick and Deb will plan to work on an agenda and timing.
 - Management

- No further work on this item.
- Rick needs one more Landowner Sub-Committee meeting to complete work on this item.

5. Open Space and Rec Plan 2020: We reviewed the Task List from our 2020 Plan document:

- Goal 1: Parks work
 - Work on this goal is proceeding nicely. Parks and Rec are working on a PARC grant to add a walking track, improve signage, and add a hockey rink. Planned completion by end of May.
 - Rec Director hiring is in process.
 - Karen is monitoring the new town beautification committee's work and also keeping an eye on opportunities for ADA-compliant projects.
- Goal 2: Proactive advocacy
 - Green Community designation has been accomplished
- Goal 4: Promotion
 - As noted above, Website redesign in process, trail summit being planned
- Goal 3: Communications
 - As noted above, Trail Vision nearly completed, Princeton Hikes reset in process. Also Calamint Hill very close to completion.

6. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) progress:

Calamint Hill Conservation Area: The only remaining step is the wetland replication work, which involved a few hours of digging. Rick has asked ConCom to arrange for wetlands person to oversee this activity, hopefully in June. That will complete the project.

Goodnow park: Next steps are:

- Walkthrough for OSC to decide on next steps.
- Cary is going to inspect the park and see what additional work is needed.
- Final trail work and work on signage: Organize this as soon as the tour has been completed.

Worcester West Trails:

- Signage and promotion.

Red Fox Farm:

- Trail cleanup done by Rick, Deb, Karen, and Susan.
- Rick working on NOI for the wetland portion on Walcott land, and an RDA for the trails through PLT land. Will plan to introduce these at June ConCom meeting.
- Action: We **VOTED** \$250 to cover NOI, RDA, and postage costs to cover the filing processes.
- We need to think about parking. Rick had envisioned using the land at the corner of Worcester and Ball hill Road. This is large enough for 3 or 4 cars. We should consider making something larger available. We should all look at this area to see what might be practical. Lots of private land.

Princeton Hikes:

Restart of the program went well. We advertised on Next Door this month and got about ten new members of the group, and the May 8th hike had 14 Princeton people and 17 total. SO restart was successful.

For the June 22 hike we will advertise on Town News in addition. We may get more than our target group of 20 and Susan and Karen volunteered to lead additional hikes, including a Sunday hike.

Hikes in June are planned for Cobb Brook Trails and Bickford Pond. So along with the Senior hike to Lovers Lane that will make five hikes in Princeton for the re-started program. Good start!

Rick has an article in the RR News for May.

Meeting Adjourned: at 8:22

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 8th at 7PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rick

**Trail Vision
Goal/Tasks**

1 Trail Network Development

	Action Items	Supports Objectives	Start Date	Targeted End Date	Leader	Comments
1.1	Provide list of all known trail connections, those that link one area to another.	1,4,5		2021	Rick	
1.2	Identify priority trail connections needing to be developed	1,5		2021	Rick	
1.3	Complete Development of the Cobb Brook Trails	1,4		2021	Rick	
1.4	Design and gain approval for the Red Fox Farm Trail	1,4,5		2021	Rick	Will need NOI and all associated work with DEP and DCR
1.4	Complete the development / repurposing of Goodnow Park	1,4		2021	Cary	
1.5	Build out trails at Red Fox Farm	1,4,5		2022	Rick	
1.6	Explore and gain landowner approval for connection from Calamint Hill area to Brooks Station Road	1,5		2021	Deb	
1.7	Develop a planned and documented Biking route around town	1,4,5		2021	Kelton	
	<i>NOTE: Additional action items will be added as we progress with the vision</i>					

2 Signage

	Action Items	Supports Objectives	Start Date	Targeted End Date	Responsibility	Comments
2.4	Bullock/McElroy Kiosk and Signs	1		May 2021	Deb	We have PLT OK to proceed
2.2	Four Corners1 Kiosk and Signs	1		Sep 2021	Deb	We have an indication from ConCom to proceed.
2.3	Peabody-Metcalf Kiosk and Signs	1		Sep 2021	Deb	We have PLT OK to proceed
2.4	Gregory-Alexander Kiosk and Signs	1		June 2022	Deb	We have PLT OK to proceed

3 Communication and Documentation

	Action Items	Supports Objectives	Start Date	Targeted End Date	Responsibility	Comments
3.1	Provide list and map of all existing "approved" trails	2		2022	Rick	
3.2	Complete the redesign of the website for OSC and Trails	2		2021	Cary	
3.3	Reformat website to new, easier form	2		2022	Rick	
3.4	Expand the website where needed to cover all trails and connections	2		2022	Rick	
3.5	Expand Hikers documentation to expand information about historical and environmental features of the trails	2		2022	Cary (with Karen, Susan)	Will require work by all of OSC to collect information
3.6	Re-launch Princeton Hikes! To draw in more Princeton residents	2,3		May 2021	Rick	
3.7	Plan a 'Trail Summit' to review trail strategy	2,3,7		2021	Rick	

3.8	Provide Trail Information to residents through presentations (for example Library program)	2021		June 2021	Rick	Will repeat every two years
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4 Management

	Action Items	Supports Objectives	Start Date	Targeted End Date	Responsibility	Comments
4.1	Formalize new OSC Organizational Role after review with select board	6		2021	Rick	
4.2	Develop a trail maintenance plan	6		2021	Rick	
4.3	Develop a Memorandum of Understanding format to use with private landowners	6		20212	Rick	To clarify the role of both parties and the nature of the agreement.
4.4	Establish an annual Trail Summit to talk to a wider group of landowners about trail status and plans	2,3,7		2021	???	
4.5	Redefine Trail Steward role and membership during startup of the Worcester Road West trail development	7		2022	Rick	

2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan Task List

(modified to show assignment and status)

Goal 1: Maintain and improve Princeton’s existing natural resources, open spaces, and recreational areas.														
Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Priorit y	Funding Source	Who	Status	
1. Support the town’s Parks and Recreation function	Select Board, OSC< Parks and Rec Commission	X								1	Town, P+R	Kelton	OK	
2. Assess Krashes Field and Needham Fieldhouse	Parks and Rec	X								1	Town, P+R, PARK Grant	Kelton	PARC Grant	
3. Develop a plan for other town-owned parks	Parks and Rec		X	X	X					2	Town, P+R	Kelton	Sawyer field plan	
4. Plan, and develop a balanced program of recreational activities for all ages	Parks and Rec	X	X							2	P+R	Kelton	In process of hiring	
5. Communicating trail use standards	OSC		X	X						3	OSC	Rick	Website redesign	
6. Implement beautification projects	OSC			X	X					2	Garden Club, Town	Karen	New Town Committee	
	TBD													
7. Study and Design ways to improve availability of ADA compliant resources	OSC and Parks and Rec	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	P+R	Karen (with Deb)	Ongoing	
Goal 2: Plan for protection of Princeton’s scenic, historical, and natural areas through proactive planning and advocacy for thoughtful development strategies.														

Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Priority	Funding Source	Who	Status
1. Develop a list of 'high impact' parcels that will be considered for protection	OSC, PCC, PLT		X							1	OSC	Deb	
2. Work with landowners to monitor the status and develop plans	OSC, PCC, PLT			X		X		X		2	OSC, PLT	Deb	
3. Provide additional Landowner Education seminars	OSC, PLT			X		X		X		2*	OSC, PLT	Deb/Rick	
4. Provide programs to residents on land stewardship topics.	OSC, PCC, PLT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	OSC, PLT	TBD	
5. Determine appropriate areas for establishment and enhancement of wildlife corridors in town and to create official overlay districts.	OSC, EAC, PCC		X	X	X					2	OSC, EAC	Deb	
6. Support the Implementation of the Green Communities Program	Town Admin, EAC, OSC and others	X	X	X	X					1*	Town, EAC, OSC	Rick Liaison with EAC	Done!!
7. Consider the implementation of the Community Preservation Act	Town Admin, EAC, OSC and others				X	X	X	X		2	Town, EAC, OSC	Rick Liaison with EAC	Not sure

Goal 3: Promote the appropriate use of Princeton's recreational resources

Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Priority	Funding Source	Who	Status
1. Improve documentation/awareness of trails and recreation areas and publish to various on-line and paper media	OSC, P+R	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC, P+R	Cary	In process - Vision
2. Develop/Update a town-wide map showing all trails, recreation areas, and natural points of interest	OSC, P+R	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	OSC, P+R	Rick	Planned - Vision
3. Conduct periodic 'Trail Summits' to raise public awareness and help with the trails program	OSC, P+R		X		X		X		2	OSC	Rick	Planned - Vision

Goal 4: Improve Connections between Open Spaces, Parks, and other important town locales												
Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Priority	Funding Source	Who	Status
1. Develop a comprehensive trails plan and continue work on 'Trails Around Princeton'	OSC, Trail Stewards	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC	Rick	Vision Documente d
2. Continue working with the town, Princeton Land Trust, DCR, Worcester Water, town landowners, and other stakeholders on trail development	OSC Lead	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	OSC	Rick	
3. Complete the Calamint Hill Trail network, including Boylston Park	Trail Stewards	X	X						1	OSC, ConCom	Rick	In good shape
4. Continue guided hikes (Princeton Hikes!) and add guided bike rides	OSC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC	Rick	
5. Improve trail heads, parking pull-offs, and winter plowing to make town trails and hunting areas more accessible year round	OSC Leads, Highway Dept		X	X					2	OSC, Town	Rick	
6. Work with town groups that manage roads, to study and recommend areas where sidewalks can be added	OSC, Highway Dept, Road Committee			X	X				2	OSC, Town	TBD	
Goal 5: Improve Coordination between Departments, Committees, and Local Organizations												
Objective	Responsibility	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Priority	Funding Source	Who	Status
1. Host an Open Space and Recreation Summit annually	OSC, P+R		X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC	Rick/Deb	Planning
2. Organize annual maintenance and improvement activities for town parks and trails	OSC, EAC, Parks and Rec		X	X	X	X	X	X	1	OSC, P+R	Rick	Earth Month Cleanup

