

## Open Space Committee minutes for June 8, 2021

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

Absent: Kelton Burbank

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes were approved for the May OSC meeting.
2. Resignation: Cary LeBlanc will be working in Rome for the next year and has decided to resign his position on the Committee. Susan is interested in moving to a full member.
3. Meeting Format: According to state law, we need to go back to in person meetings, with a quorum met in person. This could change if the state passes a bill to allow remote meetings.
4. Trails Presentation: Rick did a presentation for the library on trails in the towns surrounding Princeton. A recording is available and link has been provided on the OSC website, trails page.
5. Voted: To approve expenditure of \$120 for hardware for mounting the trail signs at Cobb Brook.
6. Vision and Action Plan: We reviewed the Action plan and discussed status of the items:
  - Trail network development (see below under TAP development)
  - Signage
    - Kiosk Work:
      - New kiosks for Bullock McElroy are completed as is the Kiosk for Cobb Brook.
      - Phil and Joe are planning g to put up the kiosk for Peabody/Metcalf/Poor property although the sign will not be ready right away due to some changes being pursued by PLT.
      - Sign design for Four Corners has been drafted but abutter Steve Stimson has some requests. Steve will also construct a new physical kiosk.
      - Rick is planning to meet with P+R director and School Management to discuss kiosk design for TPS Nature Trails.
    - Junction Signs
      - Trail and junction signs are designed and ordered for Cobb Brook.
      - Deb is working on the design for Bullock McElroy.
      - We will work on other areas as we progress with Kiosks
  - Documentation
    - Hikes documentation:
      - Cary has provided new text for trail writeups for the first ten hikes. Rick will begin to move these into the website.
      - We agreed to add a section at the end of the writeup to describe features (natural features, history, plants and trees, etc.)
      - We agreed that detail turn-by-turn instructions are not needed. The level done by Cary is good.
    - Overall site design

- Rick will pick up the finishing of the overall site design. This new structure is more intuitive and will make it easier to find things. We have some notes completed during the Trail Vision work.
- Princeton Hikes! Relaunch has been successful with close to 30 people on average at our hike, mostly Princeton people.
- Library presentations on Princeton trails are completed. Can begin to think about other topics to share.
- 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.

7. Open Space and Rec Plan 2020: We decided not to review this in detail monthly. Maybe bi-monthly?

8. 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. Brian is trying to get John Viera to provide this.

Goodnow Park:

- Susan and Deb will pick up this project.
- Parks and Rec would like to consider doing a project to re-install the disc golf park. We feel we can also pursue the trails and tables/benches that we were talking about.
- Next step is for Susan and Deb to walk the park with P+R and develop plans with them for improvements.
- We also need to include the historical Commission (Matt Lindberg) as they 'own' the Common.

Cobb Brook:

- We continue cleanup work at Cobb Brook Trails.
- Kiosk was installed, and plans are being made to install trail signs and a couple more posts for signs at the Mountain Barn and Worcester Road entrances.
- We will install trail junction signs this month.
- Princeton Hikes are planned for this area in June.

Red Fox Farm:

- Rick completed and submitted NOI for the wetland portion on Walcott land, and an RDA for the trails through PLT land. Will plan to introduce these at the June 15 ConCom meeting.
- Public hearing is scheduled for May 15.
- Marie Auger did all of the distribution, copying, abutter notification, and public notices.
- A negative determination on the RDA for trails on the PLT side will allow us to start work. Concom will also rule on acceptance of the NOI for Walcott property, and that will require some additional approvals before we can proceed.
- 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.

Connection between Appell and Brooks Station Road:

- Rick and Deb will explore options, perhaps this fall. This will complete a woods trail between south and north Princeton.

Princeton Hikes:

We continue to promote primarily through Princeton forums...Next Door and Town News.

May hikes were both successful with close to 30 hikers at both, mostly from Princeton. CHCA hike was a good success. Senior hike to Lovers Lane was smaller and more promotion would be useful. About 6 hikers for Lovers Lane.

Hikes in June are planned for Cobb Brook Trails (30 signed up) and Bickford Pond. A senior hike is also planned for Cobb Brook.

Meeting Adjourned: at 8:15

Next Meeting: Tuesday July 13th 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

