

## Open Space Committee meeting minutes from February 8, 2022

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

Meeting began at 7:08 p.m.

- 1.) Minutes from January meeting unanimously approved.
- 2.) Quarterly review of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update of 2020. We look at how much progress has been made to meet the goals quarterly. Some tasks are for Parks & Rec and they are moving along. Regarding *communicating plans* for natural, scenic, and historical land parcels, we've done this before but we can create a new list of properties to keep in mind for protection since some have been protected in the past year. We'll collectively begin in May, after the trail summit. *Landowner education* program for residents on stewardship topics has to be done. (Again, this is a periodic repeat presentation for new residents or people who could use a refresher.) Another consideration is *wildlife corridors*. Regarding *promotion of our recreational resources*, both P&R and OSC are doing well. We have also *improved institutional connections* (as opposed to physical land connections) between our committee, P&R, Mass Audubon (locally), the Town and the Princeton Land Trust (PLT). As an example, Deb reports that trailhead parking areas have just been plowed recently. This was a new request of the highway department. PLT spots might be plowed by volunteer Brian Foley.
- 3.) Trail Summit: We have selected a new date of Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Our next meeting will focus on the finishing touches to it.
- 4.) Other business:

The *Trail Around Princeton* (TAP) is progressing. Laura suggested that we put our OSRP progress on our website and Rick will do this for us, as he has active spreadsheets set up already.

For *communication & documentation of trail vision*, we are able to report that this has been completed by the sub-group and it is very impressive. Small additions are welcome regarding historical or natural information that would enhance appreciation of an area. Hikes documentation provides turn-by-turn directions and trail descriptions do not. In some instances we provide a link to organization websites, such as LSF, Wachusett Mountain, etc.

*Signage* is essentially complete but Deb noted a few spots in Calamint Hill Conservation Area (CHCA) that would benefit from a little sign. Mini maps will be designed by Rick for those and Laura plans on hiking our trails to provide feedback as a new resident.

The Red Fox Farm (RFF) *trail improvement* project will take place in April or May. Ian Catlow (PLT) will donate some aluminum bridge material for that in June. No news on Appell to Brooks Station Road or Cobb bridge. Susan, Laura and Deb participated in the Winter Carnival run by P&R last Saturday. It was a success. Susan reports that parents with small children would like to know about short hikes to bring the kids on in town. We all can email Susan with our ideas before our next meeting.

*Princeton Hikes!* survey was a very good idea. Out of 297 people on the 5-year-old mailing list, 160 people responded so we can cull the others. 60% of respondents live in Princeton. On the hikes generally over 50% of participants are from Princeton. Surprisingly, the majority of participants do NOT participate in more than 10 hikes annually. We can conclude that while we can't please everyone, we're doing fine overall. The feedback was very positive. If we can include some hikes that are more adventurous (distance from town and length), some shorter ones and some on Sundays in addition to what we already offer we will please just about everyone.

It's time to refresh our *Princeton Hikes!* brochure so we voted unanimously to have Rick make updates and have 150 copies of it printed. Laura and/or Karen happy to edit it. These are only distributed at local events where we want to get the word out about them; we don't drop them off at locations.

Rick and Karen have attended virtually or watched later the Mass. Open Space Conference's first program and will continue to do so. Interesting information for us all and Karen has forwarded the first webinar to the other members of this committee.

We are gearing up for the third annual month-long *Earth Day town clean up*! We want to continue to participate with the Environmental Action Committee, Laurie Kraemer and Rick Rys. Rick (G.) will see where he can delegate work to Laura or Susan regarding activity spreadsheets and/or email communications. We'll hold our first meeting in early March so we can get a piece about it in the Redemption Rock News.

Next meeting will be a week early, on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Trail Summit to be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Rossow