

Open Space Committee meeting minutes from July 12, 2022

Present: Rick Gardner, Laura Reynolds (remotely), Deb Cary (remotely), Susan Downing, Annie Charrette, Karen Rossow

Guests include Gerry Pellegrini and the new Director of Parks & Recreation, Jamie Greenland. Meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

- 1.) Minutes from June meeting unanimously approved.
- 2.) Discussion of Goodnow Park: We invited Jamie to introduce ourselves and our mission to her and see where we can dovetail goals. Susan provided a brief history of Goodnow Park, located directly behind the Town Hall Annex, and what the OSC has proposed for it. We want to clear trails for hiking and work with P&R on reviving the former disc golf course there. It is also a good area to hold kids' events sponsored by either of our groups or the library. We have the full support of the Historical Commission and would communicate any proposals to the selectboard as well. Jamie is eager to improve Goodnow Park for both main purposes. Currently it's flagged but needs trails cleared and better blazing and signage. Jamie feels it's important to have a park in the center of town because, as is the case with Sawyer Field, it's located in a walkable neighborhood, whereas one has to drive to Krashes Fields generally.

Rick asked if she thinks we should approach Goodnow Park in stages or phases. We'll wait to hear back after Jamie discusses it with P&R team. Once we've determined the best approach we can approach the selectboard. Susan will follow up with Jamie in about a week. Rick also encouraged Jamie to take a look at the OSRP 2020 as many of its goals are the responsibility of P&R.

3.) Other business:

Laura has a mock-up of a booklet she's interested in creating about places to explore in Princeton. She cribbed from a Greater Worcester booklet she discovered shortly after moving to the area at the onset of the pandemic. She'll copy and paste some information from our website but simplifying for brevity. Susan and Laura are working on Points of Interest for the end of the booklet. These can also be put on our website and Rick can add these places to the interactive map. The points of interest are grouped into geologic, ecological, historical and scenic.

Annie has been working on another pamphlet (or possibly combining her project with Laura's) themed "10 Good Hikes with Children" since we've received feedback from residents that this would be helpful for families with small children.

Karen has reviewed the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness document the town completed related to climate change for any land parcels it might be concerned about. Land parcels were not addressed; dams in town are a noted concern but this doesn't fall within the purview of the OSC.

Deb continues to watch for potential collaborative efforts with other land acquisition organizations.

Rick and Gerry will attend the upcoming Sterling OSC meeting on Wednesday, July 20th. They've expressed interest in connecting trails between Sterling and Princeton. Some potential connections include East Princeton, Poutwater Pond, and the bridge at the end of Houghton Road.

No progress on Red Fox Farm trails. Rick will communicate status with the owner, Sam Walcott, soon. The bridge materials have been delayed by several months.

Rick has agreed to be the Chair for one more year.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rossow