

Open Space Committee minutes for September 13, 2022

Present: Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Laura Reynolds, Gerry Pellegrini, Annie Charrette (remotely) and Karen Rossow. Excused: Susan Downing. Guest: Brianna from the Conservation Commission. Guest: Martha Estrada remotely.

Meeting began at 7:11.

Goodnow Park status: Deb and Susan are scheduled to meet for a walk-through with Jaime Greenland and Brendan Toohey of the Parks and Recreation Commission on **October 6th at 1:00 p.m.** to discuss this under-utilized town park. We want to determine if we can begin clearing trails soon.

High-value open space parcels: Deb and Rick made substantial progress and will meet two more times to finish it up before presenting it informally with state organizations. They have made a map of potential parcels and a spreadsheet to go with it. Their criteria include size of parcel, whether or not it's a wildlife corridor, adjacency to other preserved land, views, if it can accommodate trails, how vulnerable it is to development, if it's within a watershed and its historical significance. Then they can rate each with a value score of 1, 2, or 3. This should make it easy to determine the most significant. This work is in our shared drive. Deb will share a case study on the Landscape Partnership Program with us via email.

Hey Day preparation is underway and Gerry and Laura will attend to represent us. Some Princeton Hikes! participants may join them during the day. September 24, 2022 from 11:00 to 4:00.

Hikes for Kids pamphlet is near completion. Rick made some changes to organize and simplify format and Laura suggested including little check boxes so families can track their progress on completing the hikes if they choose to do so. Laura will use Bitly to condense links to make space for the check boxes. Deb will print 50 copies (2-sided sheets) for Hey Day.

Natural attractions list is almost finished. Laura and Susan are still working on a few details and will add a map. Once this is done Rick will put it on our website.

Red Fox Farm trails: Rick will arrange a trail clearing party for some time in October.

Princeton Hikes! continue. Rick was able to cut participant email by approximately 50% with a previous outreach. Rick will send a short survey to those currently on it for basic information and to include a waiver to sign releasing us of responsibility for any injuries incurred on our hikes.

Other business: Representatives from the OSC will lead a climate change hike with Forrest Iwanik from the Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC) and Brianna and/or Brian from the Princeton Conservation Commission (ConCom) in October. Any of us may participate as long as we **do not** discuss OSC matters.

Laura continues work on a PDF that includes all of our hikes with condensed information which people can print and bring with them on hikes. Includes things like trail and safety etiquette.

Brianna is happy to be our liaison to the ConCom and help with tasks which overlap our missions.

Our next scheduled meeting is on **Tuesday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m.** in the town hall annex and remotely.

Action items: Deb (or Karen) and Susan: October 6th 1:00 p.m. walk through & discuss Goodnow Park with P&R reps; Deb and Rick meet again to continue work on key parcels; Gerry and Laura attend Hey Day; Rick, Laura and Annie wrap up Hikes for Kids; Susan and Laura will continue on the natural attractions to be discovered on our hiking trails; Rick will hold trail-clearing day for RFF; Brianna and Rick (and anyone else) expect to hear from EAC on drought hike in town to raise awareness of climate change effects we are experiencing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Rossow