

Open Space Committee minutes of Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Present: Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Susan Downing, Annie Charrette, Karen Rossow.

Excused: Laura Reynolds and Gerry Pellegrini. Guest: Dot Odgren.

Meeting began about 7:07 p.m.

Landowner Information Meeting: This meeting for Princeton landowners with ten or more acres of land will focus on land conservation and be driven by examples. Format will be a brief introduction and agenda by Rick, a brief history of preserved parcels by Deb, talk on Princeton Land Trust land transfers by Tom Sullivan, John Mirick and Justin Griffin, Chris Cappone on DCR land acquisition and Chapter 61, 61A and 61B, five minutes for other options and then time at the end for discussion.

The brochure has a few more edits suggested by the committee members. **Deb** will email Rick some additional contact names for the brochure. We will mail it to about 193 landowners. **Karen, Susan, and Deb** will get together on Tuesday, December 27th at 10:00 a.m. at Deb's home to address the envelopes by hand and stuff them. We'll leave them like that so people can add personal notes as appropriate. We'll bring laptops and use the spreadsheet from Deb and Rick's data to obtain the addresses. **Deb** will make color copies of the brochure and we'll use the town hall for the town envelopes and U.S. postage stamp machine (**Karen** happy to do this). **Rick** will handle social media. **Deb** will make sure we have handouts to spread on a table in the back. **Susan, Karen and Annie** will make snacks and provide drinks/plates/napkins.

Trail Vision Update: RFF signage is ready to go and looks great! Installation of kiosk and smaller signs to be done in the spring. Goodnow park has had the trails thoroughly cleared. We think a smaller, perhaps 4x4 foot sign would be appropriate, perhaps attached to the annex or adjacent to the trailhead. Will also benefit from some good blazing (Susan and Karen?) and some small brown signs. **Susan and Rick** will work on up-to-date GPS map. Dot Odgren gave an update on the Pollinators and their plants sign for Thomas Prince School trail area by the butterfly garden. Deb has been helping with this, along with the principal and expect to include the science and art teachers. OSC will make a new trail kiosk at another trail head. The original one will have to remain where it is.

Communication/documentation on the website: Annie will make a few changes to the kids' hikes but it's nearly ready. Natural attractions/points of interest is ready now as is but electronic links can be added as time permits.

Princeton Hikes! program continues to attract many area hikers and quite a few of them helped with the Goodnow Park trail clearing day, stating that they want to give back in appreciation of this program.

Other business: Ethan Stern is a landowner interested in permitting a trail on his property that will make it possible to connect Appell property to Brooks Station Road, possibly extending to the Cobb Brook trails eventually. Thank you very much to Deb, Rick, and especially Ethan for providing this connector for our trail system!

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10th, 2023.

This meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Tasks: **DEB** will email Rick contact names; **DEB** will get together with **SUSAN** and **KAREN** on Tues, Dec. 27th at 10:00 a.m.; **DEB** will make color copies of brochure once it's finished by Rick, **DEB** will bring handouts to landowner meeting; **SUSAN, ANNIE** and **KAREN** will bring refreshments to Landowner Information Meeting. **SUSAN** will work with **RICK** on up-to-date GPS map of Goodnow Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rossow