

## Open Space Committee minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting

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

Meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

**Minutes from December** unanimously approved.

**Landowner Information Session** scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>: Chris Capone and Tom Sullivan's presentations are ready. Rick and Deb's were reviewed by the committee and editing suggestions were made and will be incorporated. We'll include a welcome and introductions by Rick, Princeton land management overview by Deb, overview of the Princeton Land Trust by Tom Sullivan, Justin Griffin and John Mirick, Chapters 61, 61A and 61B explained by Chris, closing comments by Rick. Following that will be general questions and discussion. Anyone with questions specific to their property will be graciously encouraged to speak with appropriate representatives afterwards.

Karen, Susan and Annie will cover refreshments and Deb will bring brochures/handouts. Rick has done promotion and reserved the public space (town hall annex large room).

**Parcel analysis** is generally ongoing, without a deadline. The next step will be to identify high-priority open space targets. It will be helpful to include some other committee's ideas and compile all suggestions into a matrix. Realtors may also have some parcels in mind. We decided it would be a good idea to hold a separate event where we seek public input based on neighborhoods, so dividing them up into patches that contribute to the quilt as a whole so as to learn what they value most in their area.

**Trail Vision:** The Walcott (formerly Red Fox Farm) trail signs are done! We'll wait until spring to install kiosk(s). The cost is better if we can combine small orders into one larger one so perhaps we can include the Goodnow Park signs in our next order.

Thomas Prince School nature trails work will also be completed in the spring.

Regarding *Good Hikes with Kids*, Rick would like an article about them to be submitted to Redemption Rock News in their March edition, including at least one guided hike. Karen and Annie will work on the date(s) for the hikes.

*Natural Attractions* document will have some updates added to it on the website.

*Princeton Hikes!* survey results: Rick received 161 responses including the liability waiver, a few without it, and 57 people have been dropped from the email list as they didn't respond. As we expected, most people enjoy hikes between 4 and 6 miles in length and most are comfortable with many terrains. Just over half of the participants live in Princeton with surrounding towns making up most of the others. There are a handful of regular participants not in those two categories.

In **other business**, for the 2024 budget we **voted** unanimously to request \$1000 in town funding for the next fiscal year, which is no increase from this year. On January 28<sup>th</sup> Parks & Recreation is holding their Winter Carnival and it would be good to have an OSC representative there with some brochures and/or assisting with activities. Annie may be able to attend.

Next meeting is on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Rossow

