

Present: Kelton Burbank, Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow

Excused: Kim Houde

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes from June were approved.
2. Bickford Pond: Rick has replacement signs. Waiting for Tom Sullivan to get them posted.
3. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update: We agreed to change our approach and begin opening some sections as we are ready to do so:
  - We need to decide how we will mark the trail. Custom plastic markers would run around \$1.00 each best guess, which translates to \$200 per mile of trail (32 miles total). We can get a lot cheaper if we use standard markers (more like \$100 per mile) or paint (much less than that). We will all consider this and do more research before next meeting. Then will be ready to start marking where we can.
  - Will we re-mark the Midstate segments of the trail? Or we could just reference the Midstate marking (and save a lot of work and maintenance).
  - Clearly define what is expected of landowners, and what is promised by OSC in terms of trail management. See results of our discussion, below.
  - We agreed to begin work on a small meeting of targeted landowners. First group will be Jim Hillis, Dick Stuart, and Clayton Mosher. Kelton offered to set up a meeting with them. Rick will draft a few slides for discussion purposes.
    - i. We will keep the presentation simple, include the trail purpose, low-key promotion and low volume of hikers, landowner asks and the OSC promises.
    - ii. Material such as trail etiquette and Mass Law regarding liability will be added but used if there are questions.
    - iii. We will consider first markings to be on a trial basis. Try a trail section for a year or so, conduct some guided tours to start the ball rolling, and evaluate with the landowner whether there are issues.
    - iv. We need to have a phone number to call when there are issues. Also pro-actively invite the landowners to an evaluation of the trail management.
    - v. We will not start out with a registered users program. Intent will be to ask for what we would like to do (all uses, no registration) and keep it as simple as possible. We can add embellishments over time as needed.

Our list of 'what we are asking from Landowners':

- Allow hikers on specified trail
- Clearing/preparation of trail
- All non-motorized use? If not, what restrictions?
- Allow marking of trail and larger signs in some cases (for directions to secondary trails for example)
- Special Landowner requests (for example during hunting season)
- Allow us to do limited Publicity
- Forums for promoting the trail
- Availability of print or on-line maps or maps on Kiosks
- For Kiosks: We would likely only put Kiosks on public property???
- A handshake agreement for trail use that can be discontinued by landowners at their request (ie: Midstate model)

Our list of what Landowners can expect from OSC

- Decision on how trail will be marked
  - Promotion of trail use
  - Maintenance/cleanup, at least once per year. We will plan to assign segment stewards
  - A phone number/eMail address for problem reporting (with a way to escalate)
  - Communication of trail use policy/rules
  - Perhaps down the road a process for registration of hikers (ie: a registration process).
  - Annual meeting/landowner contact to review trail success/problems/plans.
  - Parking areas will be public places (our main nodes).
4. Trails mapping project update: Rick has a bit of cleanup to do on the website before we publish. Once that is done, will send around a draft press release letting the townspeople know of the site. OSC Members are asked to review the website info and pass comments to Rick.
  5. Princeton Hikes! Program: Program is ongoing. Good attendance (normally 10-20 people). We have done eight hikes to-date as scheduled. Rick and Karen have been leading these. People are very happy with the hikes and there has been a lot of positive feedback to OSC members.
    - We reviewed the next five planned hikes in Aug/Sep. These will be publicized in the next couple of weeks.
    - Rick is planning to continue these into the Winter. Will add some hikes in neighboring towns and will also start to repeat some in town hikes.
  6. Fieldstone Farm Update: Still waiting for final resolution of wetland plans. Brian reports that progress has been made but we are not quite ready to build trails yet.
    - Funding grant is not resolved yet. Will be a couple more months.
  7. Thoreau Trail Project: Rick attended two of the six segments. Good contacts with some other trail folks from Bolton, Concord, Leominster. No new ideas for trails in Princeton (we just used the MidState trail from Crow Hill to Wachusett).
  8. Other Business: Deb suggested that we plan for a booth for Hey Day and perhaps for the Princeton Fest being planned for Sept 30. Rick volunteered to chair the table for Hey Day if others can help out. Sept 30 is a Princeton Hike day!! We can plan for this next meeting.
  9. Next meeting: Wednesday September 13 or 20<sup>th</sup>. Rick will ask for the 13<sup>th</sup> but we may need to switch to get the conference room.
  10. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner