

Open Space Committee Minutes

January 10, 2017

Present: Kelton Burbank, Phil Gransewicz, Kim Houde, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow

Excused: Rick Gardner

Meeting began at 7:20 p.m.

Approved minutes from previous meeting as written unanimously.

Trails mapping project update: Rick is doing a fine job. We think some small Princeton trail routes are missing (Four Corners, Krashes Fields) or grouped together and should be laid out more precisely on the map he created. The committee appreciates the vision of connecting Princeton trails to surrounding towns but would prefer if this map could include only trails that come directly within our borders. We will put this discussion on the next agenda.

Karen and Deb have not yet begun to arrange guided walks on Princeton trails for the community, although they still intend to as time and weather permit.

Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update: Kelton has discussed strategy with landowner Dwight Davenport, who is comfortable with establishing trails but does not want them advertised or on a map at this time. The GPS mapping done by Rick (or more specifically Rick's electronics) included walking right through his living room, so that will have to be adjusted to exclude his actual home unless people bring goodies. No further contact has been established with Jim Hillis in East Princeton or the Moshers between Route 140 and Krashes Fields. Justin Griffin was going to talk with Mr. Mosher but we don't know if he has yet. Deb has been in touch with the Appell family and they recently expressed interest in our project and may be open to having a trail on their land if it will help connect other trails together. We are not sure if they are interested in preserving their land.

Fieldstone Farm Update: It was Karen and Rick's understanding that the Town Administrator, Nina Nazarian, would like town committees and boards to utilize state grants when possible. Karen has been working on a Recreational Trails Program grant application for a kiosk and a bridge on the new Fieldstone Farm trails. The town match for the grant money has to be at least 20%, but with volunteer hours given for establishing the trails that goal will easily be met.

The committee members recommended excluding trail-building materials such as gravel from this grant. Karen will request support letters from appropriate sources, including the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission. Deb pointed out that indicating on the document that the trails will conform to the regulations of the City of Worcester's Conservation Restriction may eliminate the need for involving that city in the process. Kelton contacted someone from NEMBA about what costs and materials are for building a modest wooden footbridge over the brook. We can also include costs of printing trail maps.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Rossow