

Present: Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow, Kim Houde

Guest: Tom Sullivan

Excused: Kelton Burbank

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

1. Minutes from February were approved.
2. Landowner Education: Following up from the discussion of the last meeting, Tom Sullivan was invited to join us. There is interest in a joint project with Princeton Land Trust (PLT) to hold a Landowner Education meeting to review conservation options and benefits.
 - PLT is 'in' and willing to help present this topic
 - We will shoot for this fall for a meeting with Landowners
 - Karen will get a list of landowners with over ten acres and this will be our target audience. We will also personally invite some of the landowners who can most help with trail opportunities.
 - We will look to get a speaker who can explain Chapter 61 and other options, and we will also provide some information about Open Space Committee goals and projects and PLT goals and projects. Roughly 10 minutes for Open Space and PLT, and 40 Minutes for the speaker but this can be tweaked. Rick will call MassWoods to see if they can provide a speaker. Tom will see if John Mirick can join us to answer local and legal questions.
 - We also will plan to include some time for Larry Greene to talk about his experience with CR through PLT.
3. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update:
 - Karen spoke to Jim Hillis about the trail through his property. He is reluctant to allow formal access through his land, due to work that he is doing and an aggressive dog that he owns. Karen is now thinking to go up through Degutis or DCR land and out via Leominster State Forest land to Leominster Rd.
 - Ted Goodnow has declined to allow formal trails through his property. Ted seemed interested in the idea but postponed meetings twice and then indicated that he was too busy to deal with it. He also said that he has talked to folks at the Clearings and they do not want to allow access through their land.
 - Rick has explored a trail through DCR and Mosher land that goes out from Town Farm Road to the bottom of Gleason Road (not far from East Princeton). We will need permission from Mosher's to use this corridor, and will not be able to mark a trail on DCR land. So this trail is interesting but not for a formal trail.
 - The Carys are permitting public access through a corridor on their property to tie lower Merriam Road to the Krashes Field trails. Rick walked this trail and plans to mark it later this summer. We will plan a Princeton Hike from the center of town, down through the Gregory/Alexander PTC properties to Merriam, then via Cary trails to Bullock property, then through Peabody and Poor property to Hall fields then back up to the center. Nice loop!
 - Walk through Goodnow park: Deb, Rick, Karen will plan to check out this area on May 3. The questions are: Should we develop some trails on this property? And can we get through to Allen Hill Road?
 - One question that we need to consider as we get rejections from landowners: Should we plan for an INFORMAL TAP? That is: develop a corridor that is not marked or mapped, but that can be demonstrated to residents through the hikes program. In that case we could make use of DCR land, and perhaps have an easier time with Landowners.
4. Trails mapping project update: No further discussion regarding a book to assist with fund raising. Save for next meeting.

5. Princeton Hikes! Program: Still going well, article was in the Landmark last week. We are still getting 20-30 people out for each hike. Next up are a guided hike of Quinapoxit Reservoir and an East Side hike up Wachusett.
6. Fieldstone Farm Update: The APR should be completed roughly by fall.
 - We have received updated trail plans from the state and will be developing the Audubon (north) side trails later this spring.
 - We are still waiting for Con Com to complete the wetlands survey. The mapping work has been done and we are now just waiting for the final map to be created by ConCom. Then Rick will invite some trail builders to walk the proposed trail and plan for trail work. We will develop trails on both sides of the wetlands, and will need some structures to connect them.
7. Other Business:
 - Wachusett Meadow acquisition of the lot on the south west corner of Gates and Goodnow Rd is completed.
 - Worcester Water is not going to act on the Pettee property at this time. Rick and Deb will continue to lobby for this.
8. Next meeting: Tuesday May 14th or Tuesday the 8th (note: it will be the 8th per Lynne)
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner