

Present: Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow

Excused: Kim Houde, Kelton Burbank

Meeting began at 7:15 p.m.

1. Minutes from January were approved.
2. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update:
 - Karen spoke to Dick Stuart about trail through his property. She believes he will be OK with this, but he wanted to know first if Jim Hillis is in. Karen is going to talk to Jim but believes that he will be OK with the idea.
 - i. If we use Dick's property we will need to repair the bridge crossing over Keyes Brook. We decided that it would be prudent to look for ways to avoid going over the bridge, especially in light of the planned East Princeton road work, which will provide a new bridge and sidewalk though the village. We looked at a track of the existing trails and will work on that idea. One existing sub-trail goes behind Judy Dino property so she will be approached.
 - The Carys are donating a corridor through their property to tie lower Merriam Road to the Krashes Field trails. Deb and Charlie will be working on the corridor, which goes around their fields. Deb will invite Rick to walk the proposed trail.
 - i. Once this is settled 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!
 - Other Organization for meetings with Landowners:
 - i. Next Priority is the link between Peabody/Metcalf PLT trails and Whitaker Lane.
 - Rick will work with Ted Goodnow
 - Kelton will work on the Clearings Property (Johnnie G trail).
 - We need to decide how to approach the short section owned by Lynch.
 - ii. Walk through Goodnow park: We will plan this at our next meeting
3. Trails mapping project update: Rick mentioned that he is thinking that we might put together a nice hard cover book for Princeton Hikes. This would document, one page per Hike, several nice hikes in Princeton and surrounding towns. Each would include photos and a map, and would describe key features and interesting notes about flora and fauna in the area.

The idea would be for this to be a nice solid book, sold to raise money for trail work. We would enlist some help for photos and notes, and probably sell it over the internet. We'd need to worry about permission for publishing information.

We will discuss more at next meeting.

4. Princeton Hikes! Program: Program is going well, still plenty of places to visit and lots of enthusiasm. Hikes last month were Monoosnoc-to-Rocky Pond and Stuart Pond to Onion Patch and Cat Rocks. Both well attended and good feedback.

Rick has arranged for a walk through of the East Side of the Quinapoxit Reservoir for April, led by Kevin Scherer of Worcester Water. This will start off Brooks Station Road (Old Mill Rd).

5. Fieldstone Farm Update: The APR has been funded by the federal government and Audubon is now working through the State process to complete this transaction. Should be completed roughly by fall.

- Trail easement in the original APR proposal needs to be used. We are meeting this coming Friday to nail down the new trail plan on the west side of the FF property (Rick, Deb, Cindy Dunn, Brian Keevan. Tom Sullivan will all be involved). Much of the south part of this has been flagged by Rick and Brian.
- We decided to hold on the State grant idea until we have a clearer picture of the wetland crossings (once the new trail approach is decided)
- We are still waiting for Con Com to complete the wetlands survey. Brian says they need to go back one more time to complete this, but the new Trail Easement may change some things.

6. Projects for 2018: Rick asked about the mission of the OSC. The answer is: The OSC exists to implement the Open Space plan, which was prepared by the town through a separate process in 2009. There is a list of goals in the 2014 update but this list is missing some pieces. We will go back to the original plan to check the goals, and then discuss more next meeting. We do have the charter to expand from those goals.

We discussed the idea of holding a meeting on Land Preservation. The idea would be to educate Landowners to the options. Karen explained the process of developing a Land Preservation Plan several years ago and will get us copies of that document. Rick will bring up this idea at the next Princeton Land Trust meeting and we will discuss again next meeting.

7. Other Business:

- Wachusett Meadow is buying the 5 acre lot at the south west corner of Gates and Goodnow Rd to protect the sanctuary and Midstate trail.
- No further word from CMRPC re trails documentation work. Rick attended a Montachusett RPC meeting. They are updating their trail maps for a publication of a area-wide trail map later this year. They have asked if we could add Princeton trails to this (since our East and West abutters are not in CMRPC. Rick will work with them on this idea.
- We discussed the Petee property which is adjacent to Heifer project land off Old Mill Road. Larry Greene asked Rick about this. It was purchased many years ago by Petee as a potential house lot. The Road would need to be upgraded at a high cost to the town (maybe like \$500K) to be re-opened. Can we convince Worcester to buy the property? Deb will talk to Worcester. Rick will clarify legal requirements with Larry.

8. Next meeting: Tuesday March 13 at 7 (confirmed with Lynne)

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner