

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

Excused: Kim Houde

Meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

1. Minutes from October were approved.
2. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update:
 - Organization for meetings with Landowners:
 - i. First priority is the LSF to East Princeton Link. Kelton will arrange a meeting with Rick and Jim Hillis, Karen will arrange a meeting with Dick Stuart.
 - ii. Second Priority is the link between Peabody/Metcalf PLT trails and Whitacker 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.
 - iii. No action on the Appel property of Calamint Hill Rd (waiting for the family to move forward). We also still need a route from Ball Hill Rd to Calamint Hill Rd. We will hold off on more work on this segment for now.
 - iv. Walk through Goodnow park: We will wait until the snow leaves and then explore options for re-establishing trails, preferable through to Allen Hill Rd.
 - v. Trails responsibility:
 - We discussed the responsibility of the OSC regarding trails in town. Presently there are few town-owned trails but this will change as we build trails in the Fieldstone Farm area and links for TAP.
 - We agreed that this should be a responsibility of OSC and OSC will arrange to bring together trail maintainers and developers.
 - We can consider several different methods of accomplishing trail maintenance goals...for example having an annual trail day, working with local special interest groups (bikers, snowmobilers, hikers), or assigning roles by trail section.
 - We also discussed the concern that if we build a lot of new trails, maintenance can become overwhelming, as happened in Petersham.
3. Trails mapping project update: Rick has been maintaining the town website with trails information. This has been promoted through the Landmark, Nextdoor and Facebook. We do not currently have a way to track usage. In the future we should re-promote this resource.

Karen had a sample of what Sturbridge has done for documenting trails. They have a hard copy booklet with maps and photos. Presently we have just the website, with printable PDFs.
4. Princeton Hikes! Program: Program is ongoing. Attendance has been growing, and feedback is excellent. Attendance has normally been between 20 and 30, and we continue to get new people.
 - We will plan to repeat the booth at Hey Day next year (Sept 15).
 - Rick mentioned plan for 2018. Work in two month intervals (four hikes over two months) and plan one 'surrounding town' hike, one repeat hike and two new Princeton hikes each cycle. Consensus is that this is a good strategy.
5. Fieldstone Farm Update: Still waiting for final resolution of wetland plans. Work HAS progressed and is nearly done by the conservation commission, but need to wait for the snow to leave to finalize the wetland plan and then meet again to re-lay out the trails. Will happen next spring.

- The Field APR has been funded by the federal government and Audubon is now working through the State process to complete this transaction. Should be completed within a year.
- We have mapped the revised right of way for the trail going around the fields from Wachusett Meadow to the FF woods on the East side of the wetlands. We will review with the Hubbards (Tom Sullivan) and Gouldings (Deb) to get approval.
- Karen is working to complete application for Grant money. She will touch bases with Brian Keevan to get a better estimate of wetland-related construction cost. Also with Amanda Lewis at the DCR office overseeing the grants.

6. Other Business:

- Russell tree farm land has been sold to an environmentally friendly couple. Will likely retain all environmental protections. Five acre lot at the corner of Gates and Goodnow Rd will be purchased by Audubon to protect and sanctuary and Midstate trail.
- No further word from CMRPC re trails documentation work.
- Deb asked about land owned by Heifer Project that is in Princeton. We will look into what that is...

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

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner