



TOWN OF BRIMFIELD

Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor
23 Main Street
Brimfield, Massachusetts 01010

Angela Panaccione, Chair
Michele Restino, Vice Chair
Michael DeFalco
Virginia Irvine
Carol Platenik

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OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 20, 2014 – 6:00 PM

Members Present: Angela Panaccione, Chair
Michele Restino, Vice Chair
Virginia Irvine, Secretary
Carol Platenik

Members Absent: Michael DeFalco

Also Present: Rob Malhert, Trail Committee Chair and PTO Playground Committee
Robert Sullivan, Town Clerk

Meeting Opens: 6:05 PM – Angela Panaccione

Minutes Approval:

Motion made by Angela to accept minutes from Thursday January 16, 2014.

Motion seconded by Carol Platenik.

Michele Restino abstained

No further discussion – 3-0-1.

Review Mail/Phone Messages:

None

Administrative Matters:

Angela will check on questions regarding BOS appointment letters for Michael, Virginia, and Michele.

New Business/Old Business:

The Brimfield OSRP has received an \$8,000 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Grant from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission with a \$400 in-kind match from Brimfield. The Scope of Services are detailed in a February 14, 2014 letter sent to the OSRP from Patty Gambarini of the PVPC. Copies were distributed to members. The deadline for submittal of the Open Space and Recreation Plan to the Division of Conservation Services is December 31, 2014.

FY 15 Budget Request. Angela submitted a FY 15 budget request for \$2,500 to the Finance Committee with copies to the Finance Committee, Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. She had not heard back yet on approval.

The Board of Selectmen gave the OSRC \$200 so that the Open Space and Recreation Survey could be done on the computer using Survey Monkey. The plan was that Michael could enter the information from the completed paper copies of the survey into Survey Monkey which will then tabulate the results. The OSR Survey is on-line on the OSRP Committee web-site.

The Town Clerk added information about the Survey into the street listing mailing. The cost of that was \$20.

Member Reports:

Carol Platenik updated the progress of distribution of Surveys: 23 were completed. She has left them at the Library, Hitchcock, and the Annex. She plans to visit the Senior Center and the Elementary School. It was suggested that the 6th graders might fill out the Surveys.

Virginia asked how to find out more accurate information about the number of working farms in Brimfield because the state database had zero people employed on a farm which the OSRC did not think was accurate. It was suggested that Susan Collins at the Apple Barn could be asked or the Farm Bureau could be queried.

Public Inquiries:

Robert Sullivan was present. He wanted to know how the acres of broken trees from the tornado could be cleaned up. The forested landscape and beautiful view shed of Brimfield has been damaged. The clean up is difficult because obviously the parcels of land with damaged trees are owned by different landowners. The Rocky Mountain Wood Company is currently performing salvage cutting for no cost and retains the chipped wood, which it sells to biomass plants.

Rob Mahlert said that the Army Corp of Engineers are leaving a section of the forested tornado area in its current tornado-damaged state as part of a national research study on how vegetation naturally responds after tornados. That Army Corp area must be left as is.

Robert added that perhaps the town could embark on an organized multi-year plan to replant trees using the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. That way there would be some control over the types of trees that would grow in the areas rather than leave it to natural succession. Rob pointed out that there might be a conflict of using public funds on private lands. Rob suggested that money might be obtained from a Norcross grant.

Angela said that the Town needed to hire a forester. Doug Hutchinson is the service forester used by the Conservation Commission. Angela said there were 55 open salvage cutting plans in Brimfield right now.

It was suggested that a 7th goal be added to the OSRP Goals for the 2014 update – the Restoration of Tornado Damaged Forests.

Rob Mahlert, as a representative of the PTO Playground Committee said that the Playground Committee was submitting an article on the Town Meeting warrant for \$30,000 for a new playground and T-ball field at the Elementary School.

Discussion of Public Meeting Dates.

The OSRC wants to continue the collection of Surveys until after Town Meeting. Town Meeting is on Monday May 19, 2014.

OSRP Public Forum would be held on Monday June 9, 2014 in the Town Hall and the OSRP Public Hearing would be on Wednesday September 3rd in Town Hall. The purpose of the public hearing is to review the draft OSRP and open a public comment period. This time schedule will give the OSRP Committee time to review the results.

Discussion and Review of Draft Objectives for the Six Goals for the 2014 update

Motion to table by Carol Platenik.

Motion seconded by Virginia Irvine.

No further discussion. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.

8:00 PM Adjourn

Motion made by Michele Restino to adjourn

Motion seconded by Carol Platenik

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion carried