

Present: Deb Cary, Karen Rossow, Rick Gardner

Not Present: Kim Houde, Kelton Burbank, and Phil Gransewicz (alternate)

1) Minutes from November 2016 were approved.

2) Mapping:

- Rick Discussed a strategy for providing trail info to Princeton residents:
  - Include an overview map showing location and brief description of trail areas
  - Provide links to areas that have on-line maps (like Audubon and WMSR)
  - Document those areas that currently are not documented, with Maps and history of the area (like Fieldstone Farm).
- Rick Presented a first cut of a Princeton overview map, showing location of trail-rich areas in Princeton and surrounding towns.
- Rick also met with Peder Peterson from Sterling to discuss Sterling's approach to trail documentation. Peder has been documenting the town-owned trails and the Sterling open space website contains links that we can use as examples. <http://www.sterling-ma.gov/open-space-implementation-committee/pages/sterling-trails>
- Sterling is setting up a kiosk at town hall where residents can get the brochures, and also has been doing kiosks at the town fair and farmers market to make residents aware of the maps.
- We decided that the three-step approach is a good one, and Rick will continue to build out the overview map and an example for a Princeton-specific trail brochure for the next meeting.
- Deb suggested that we get the 'Trail Summit' folks back together in the spring, when we can hand out the new maps and also begin to organize trail building for Fieldstone Farm and other trails.
- Also we discussed reverting the project title to add the S back in (TrailS Around Princeton) since the scope will be all trails, not just the loop.

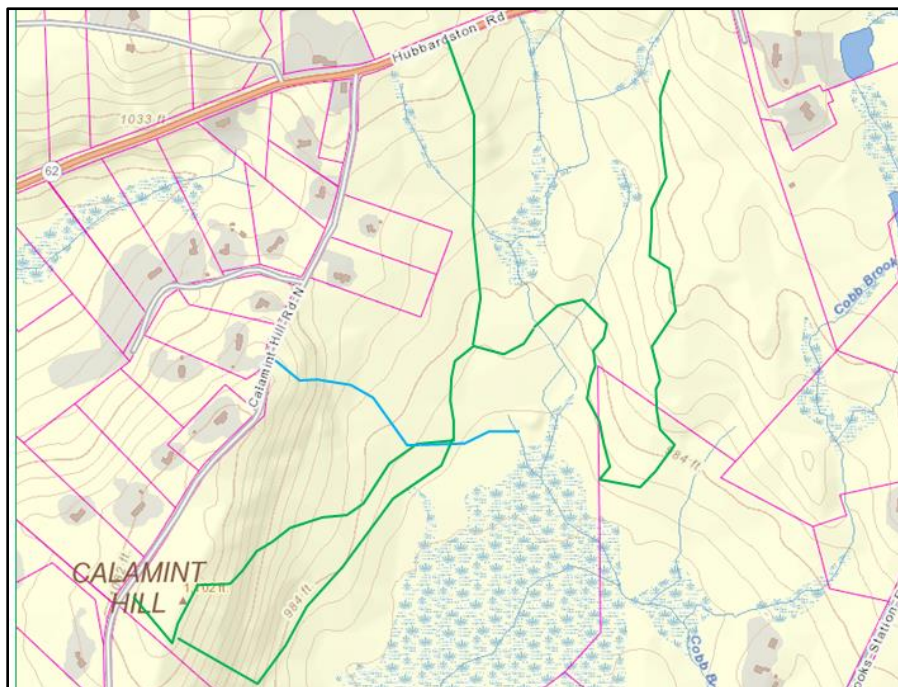
3) Trail Around Princeton

- Kelton reported via eMail that he is making some progress in engaging state leaders. Waiting for an appointment with Dwight Davenport and Jim Hillis to discuss the project in more detail. Peder Pederson is also trying to break DCR logjam, and has found some problems that we have found. He has been given a name of someone who supposedly has influence with the DCR commissioners (Mike Harris) and is working to contact him. Peder does not know Matt Beaton.
- Deb and Karen have not yet started bi-weekly trail walks but will plan to do so in January.
- Rick did not meet with the west-wide trail team this past month but will re-engage with them in January. Bruce/Ed/Steve ARE involved with the Fieldstone Farm work which has been the focus for the past month.
- Justin Griffith has the ball to contact Clayton Mosher but has not been able to do that in the past month. He is still planning to do it.
- Our short term to-do list is:
  - Kelton: Continue to work on Wachusett Mountain approvals
  - Kelton: Continue to work on state level contacts (Gobi, Ferguson, Beaton)
  - Kelton: Follow up with Jim Hillis re his segment.
  - Kelton: Contact Dwight Davenport re approval to use his property to get from Lyons Rd to Savage Hill property.
  - Deb: Contact Clayton Mosher (perhaps through Justin Griffin) re access through his property.
  - Deb: Contact Appells (Calamint Hill Rd property adjacent to Fieldstone Farm) to see if we can go through that property.
  - Karen and Deb: Organize Sunday AM trail walks for 5-6 trails this winter.
  - Whole team: Send suggestions to Karen and Deb for the walks!

- Rick: Extend the map documentation to a full draft for the 'Princeton Area Trails' and document one Princeton property.
- Rick: Follow up meetings with Steve Kessler, Justin Griffin, and teams to continue exploration of west-side trails.

### 3) Fieldstone Farm

- Rick and Brian Keevan have worked with a small team to flag trails in the Princeton-owned Fieldstone Farm property. On the map below, the blue trail is Deb's original flagging and that trail, from the parking area on Calamint Hill, will be retained. The Green lines show the rough path of planned trails. These trails are all flagged and OSC members are encouraged to walk them.
- We expect that ALL planned trails will be useable for hiking, bikes and horses. The CR agreement specified that horses may not be within 100 feet of the beaver dam.
- We cannot yet build a trail over the APR fields as they are not yet sold (they are waiting for APR funding). But we CAN proceed with building the trails in non-APR areas, using the Calamint Hill parking lot as the entry point.
- Brian is planning to create a more formal map, and to review this plan on December 20th conservation Commission Meeting, with representatives of the CR-holders (Worcester and DCR). Rick will attend for OSC.
- We will want to spend some money on this for a bridge over a narrow wetland area (our crossing is less than ten feet wide, and has ample rocks, but we are thinking to put a bridge at that point). Also for signage. We are planning for community effort to clear brush and build the trail. Brian forwarded some info on grant applications, which Karen will review for our next meeting (deadline is Feb 1).
- The hope is that we will begin trail work shortly after the start of the year.
- Rick asked about possibility is using town equipment to transport saws/gasoline along the trail during construction. Deb suggested talking to Nina.



The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall annex.