

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2016

Meeting began at 7:15 p.m.

Members Attending: Karen Rossow, Deb Cary, Rick Gardner, Kim Houde

1. **Minutes** from December 8 were approved
2. **Segment Update:**
 - **Four Corners to Dickens section:**
 - Deb is still working on getting approval to mark Krashes route from Thompson to Rhodes segment (see below).
 - Deb still planning to talk to Steve Stimpson about possible use of Stimpson land.
 - **Wachusett Mountain Section:**
 - Kelton wrote that he has re-engaged with Denise and Dwayne and they will be meeting to continue the discussion of the route.
3. **Discussion with DCR:**
 - Deb is Contacting Jim French.
 - We'd like to mark up one of the existing trails through Krashes area, if Jim feels this is OK with DCR, Deb would then talk to Stephanie. Stephanie wanted to talk to the Land Trust first...DCR might make her feel more comfortable with allowing a trail in.
 - Deb will also try to get Jim to a meeting of OSC.
 - **Trail user registration program:** Deb is asking Jim French, Jonathan Yo, and John Scannell for information regarding the Quabbin trail registration program.
 - For DCR, Audubon, Nimrod, and Norco our agreement probably needs to be in writing. Different than normal landowner 'notification'. Midstate does not have a formal document with Audubon. **Deb will craft something for this type of agreement.** No progress this month.
 - Rick spoke with Anne Gobi and has exchanged a few eMails re approach to work with DCR.
 - Anne suggested exploring the Friends program. DCR likes to work with Friends groups...not just for specific DCR properties, but we could form a town-wide Friends organization. Check out <http://www.networkingfriends.net/resources.html>.
 - Rick mentioned that in researching DCR Friends he found a DCR Handbook on Trail development. Link is: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/services-and-assistance/grants-and-technical-assistance/dcr-guidelines.pdf>
 - Anne suggested that we work on this with Rep Kim Ferguson's Office. Rick got an eMail from Emma Schlitzer (Emma.Schlitzer@mahouse.gov) today offering to help us out.
 - Also we will want to follow up with Dick O'Brien. No action on this item yet.
4. **Mission Statement**

- **Kelton will draft this and send it for review.** No action this month.

5. Landowner Manual

- **Kelton volunteered to draft this.** No action this month.

6. Trail Summit

- **Goals:** (1) to promote the TAP and inform people of work done to-date, and (2) to solicit ideas about trails. Some points to hit in the press release: Exciting, new to Princeton, not a costly venture.
- **Room Setup:** We have reserved the Annex for Jan 31. Also have reserved the town projector. The Annex has a screen that we can use. Deb will bring a backup projector.
- **Press release.** Kim will revise it slightly and send it around for final comments. Rick will send logo to Kim. Km will send to Landmark and T+G, and will ask Lynne Grettum to post to the town eMail list.
- Karen is coordinating refreshments.
- **Overall Agenda:**
 - Plan for 1-4 PM. Presentation at 1:30.
 - 15 minute intro by Kelton,
 - 40 minute walk through explored trails by Rick,
 - Open Q+A, collaborate on ideas for the trail.
- **Presentation:**
 - An hour may be too long. Plan for 40 minutes. Judge the audience and response.
 - Add an overall map to make the presentation/progression easier to follow.
 - Identify Bullock and McElroy property as PLT. The trail between Krashes and Bullock is not 'boy scout' trail...it's a network of various trails.
 - Include a slide on Landowners: Liability, Etiquette, Registration, Trial Program, signage, works in other communities (Rick will work up a slide and send for review).
 - Need to clarify Kelton's content vs. rick's content. Will Kelton cover Landowner, Etiquette, Timeline type topics? Rick and Kelton need to talk and sort this out.
- Identification for TAP members. Karen will get blank Name Tags for guests and plastic 'holders' for TAP members. Rick will print out some blank name tags with a TAP logo.
- Kevin Heman – Will to the mounting of the maps on hard backings.
 - Rick will check to see what could be done to make more permanent posters. Kevin said that what he has in mind would last for 2-3 months, not long term.
 - Can his outfit he do mailing sheets? 1446 copies but printed 4-up would be about 400 copies plus cutting.
- Mailing: Karen will get info from the Town or Post Office on procedure for a town-wide mailing. We'd like to do postcard-sized mailing, use the format proposed by Rick (with some modifications). Heavier 'postcard-like' stock. 4-up. If the town cost is too high we might find another way to do it the printing part.

7. Fieldstone Farm

- Great news, project is moving forward.
- Lots of interest in buying farmland and farmhouse.
- Private fundraising full steam ahead. Over \$250 of \$750 has been pledged.

8. Next Meeting OSC Feb 9, 7:30 PM