

## Open Space Committee Minutes

February 7, 2017

Present: Rick Gardner, Kim Houde, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow

Excused: Kelton Burbank, Phil Gransewicz

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes from January were modified slightly and approved.
2. Trails mapping project update: We reviewed the next draft of the overall map of trails and discussed some design issues.
  - a. Rick suggested that keeping neighboring town hiking areas on the map would be useful because of connections from Princeton and also because of value to our residents. This idea was adopted (we will continue to show close-by hiking areas)
  - b. The new map was a bit clearer, but we decided to make the map a full inner side of the brochure, and reduce the font to allow the legend (list of properties) to fit along with the introduction on the front side. Also, Rick will strengthen the outline of Princeton and the major Princeton Roads.
  - c. The first draft of the documentation for Princeton Land Trust (PLT) properties was reviewed briefly. Rick is going to review this with PLT, but likely PLT will want to brand the brochure for PLT (maybe a co-brand with TAP) and put it on their website. We all agreed that this is fine. Need to check with Jim and Bobbye Samdahl re use of their photo.
  - d. Rick also has discussed with Lynne Grettum the idea of modifying the town website so that:
    - i. We have a link on our front page pointing to a second page with the list of hiking areas. The second page will be a new page listing the areas, with hyperlinks to websites for more details.
    - ii. For areas which do not have more details on the public web (like Fieldstone Farm), we will add pages with more details and maps.
    - iii. We have some questions about how much documentation we can add for DCR properties. Specifically for Minns / Little Wachusett: Can we show the map? Rick will do some research.
  - e. Lynne has indicated that this will be fine, and Rick may be able to make the changes directly (to allow us more flexibility and easier method for managing the content).
  - f. Karen and Deb have not yet begun to arrange guided walks on Princeton trails for the community, although they still intend to as time and weather permit.
3. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update: Rick met with the smaller trails group, including Brian Keevan and Brett Trowbridge plus Steve Kessler, Justin Griffin, Bruce Weinstein, and Kimball Hall. There is a good deal of activity but not much real forward progress. Working around the map:
  - a. No further action with Jim Hillis or WMSR (Kelton's action item).

- b. East Princeton to TPS: Moshers have not been contacted. This is with Justin Griffin. He was concerned because our rule is 'non-motorized' and he knows that the Moshers use ATV and snowmobiles on their roads. Rick explained that we're not planning to RESTRICT the use of the trails...no problem including use of ATVs if the landowner is OK with it. Armed with that information, Justin is going to talk to the Moshers. Also Justin talked about some of the trails east of Goodnow road. We still do not have a good idea for crossing Norco property.
  - c. We have a clear trail from Krashes to Bullock Lane, but have tabled the Bullock Lane to TPS link for now. There is a path to Whitacker Lane using PLT Prescott/Metcalf property but we have some landowner issues to address.
  - d. For TPS to RedFox, there is another option, which is to use existing roads from the Power Lines to Poutwater pond, then down to Mason Road on Poutwater trails, then to the DCR road at the end of the Mason fields. A walk down the road through the Mason fields would be required. The DCR Trail up through Mason fields goes right to Red Fox PLT property and bypasses Norco (except possibly for an existing trail next to PLT Red Fox). Would need some DCR permission to use existing trails.
  - e. For Brooks Station Road to Calamint Hill Road: Still looking for options. If we can get permission from one landowner on Brooks Station Road we can get to Appell property. Justin Griffin is approaching that landowner. Deb is meeting with the Appells Feb 25 or 26, and Rick may join.
  - f. For Boylston Park to Bigelow Road: We have agreed to focus on an exit off the back of Boylston Park to Route 62, then a road walk to Bigelow Road. This because of the wetness to the west of Boylston Park and because we cannot cross the railroad track. Rick is researching a CR on one property that could be used to Exit. There are a couple of other options.
  - g. Bigelow to Midstate: We can avoid all Landowner issues by going out the unmaintained wood road at the end of Bigelow, and then going back in on the Midstate. It's a little longer but is a good solution since we will not be able to build a new trail through Savage Hill due to change in policy by the DCR Fisheries and Wildlife group. Rick walked this recently and it will work well.
4. Fieldstone Farm Update: The above mentioned trails group is planning for construction of trails.
- a. Rick will set up a trail clearing party for before the May flies (sooner actually) to clear brush for the flagged trails. More permanent marking of the trails and signage will be added later. We will work the trails in three general phases:
    - i. Loop along Calamint hill and down to the West side of the beaver pond.
    - ii. Once the Conservation Commission has designed the bridge crossing, we will build the loop on the East side of the beaver pond.
    - iii. Once the APR issue is settled and the fields are purchased by farmer, we will create the trailhead on the East side and perhaps build a second trail through the north/west side of the property from the beaver pond to Route 62.
  - b. The conservation commission is working on the exact stream and wetland crossing designs.

- c. Karen has completed the grant application, which covers bridge, signage, and kiosk work. The grant asks for \$3,172 for this purpose and also pledges a good deal of time as the town share. Rick will begin to track time spent on the project. Karen will find out when the grant awards will be made.

5. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner