

Open Space Committee Minutes

July 10, 2018

Present: Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow

Excused: Kim Houde, Kelton Burbank

Guests: Tom Sullivan and John Mirick from PLT

Mike Downey from DCR (Forestry Stewardship Program Coordinator and Service Forester)

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

1. Landowner Education:

- Rick introduced Mike Downey from DCR. Mike provided several materials from DCR.
- Mike stressed the importance of answering the WHY question: Why would I want to preserve the land or to utilize one of the various protection methods? Why would I want a trail through my property?
- We listed three GOALS of the meeting:
 - i. Explain how landowners can retain ownership of property while minimizing taxes
 - ii. Explain options for conserving/protecting land
 - iii. Explain options and issues regarding planning for keeping the land in the family
- We discussed briefly the MISSION of the Open Space Committee. The 2007 (?) town plan should have more info on this.
- We reviewed the agenda and modified the sequence, clarified the role of each speaker:
 - i. Brief introduction by the OSC, to explain the role of OSC and the Trails project Also to clarify the meeting objectives.
 - ii. Tom and John to speak on the role of PLT and to explain what CRs are.
 - iii. Find a CR landowner, possibly Larry Greene, to explain how CRs work from the Landowner point of view.
 - iv. Mike to talk about Chapter 61 and Forestry programs. Mike will have handouts.
 - v. Find a landowner to talk about experiences with Chapter 61 in Princeton. Rick, Karen and Deb will review the list of Landowners and try to find a good person to do this. Mike could also provide a person.
 - vi. Then time allotted for smaller group meetings to dig into details from individual landowners. Refreshments, etc.
- Speaking segments should be short...the total speaking should be an hour or less.
- We agreed that a Sunday afternoon will work better than a week night. Rick will work with Lynne to reserve the conference room. We will use PowerPoint slides for this.
- Mike also mentioned that DCR can provide resources and speakers for Estate planning. This is a different topic and a logical follow-on meeting from what we are planning. Paul Katenzanku (sp?) or George Dresser. DCR can help with the cost for these meetings.
- Regarding the Cover Letter, we agreed to add some info to this regarding the meeting objectives and perhaps general information on the programs. Karen will circulate a draft for comment.
- Regarding the Landowner list, we will use this to send out mailings to invite people to the meeting. We will also promote this via the PLT newsletter in mid-October. We should also put a sign on Princeton Town Common.

2. Minutes from June were approved as written.

3. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update:

- LSF to East Princeton leg. Rick still needs to get a map out to outline the options.
- East Princeton to Town Farm Road: Rick explored the east side of Mosher property. There is no trail there, so we will need to check out the AT+T line as an option. Once we get to the large Mosher field, there IS a trail all the way to Town Farm Road. Rick will plan to explore that link.

- No update from Kelton on the Clearings property. If they allow us to go through their property, then we can re-approach Ted Goodnow. We just want to use the Jonnie G trail to get to the large beaver pond, then skirt the pond over to Whitacker Lane. Rick will send Kelton a map of the connecting trails.
 - Rick is still planning to mark the trail around the perimeter of the Cary property, and to lead a hike around these trails in the fall.
 - Goodnow Park: We agreed on a date for walk through of this property. Laura Gal indicated that they would be willing to have a trail pass through the back of their property, which gets us close to the cemetery off Mountain Road. We set a date of July 17 (this will need to be changed).
4. Trails mapping project update: No further discussion regarding a book to assist with fund raising. Save for next meeting.
 5. Princeton Hikes! Program: Still going well, article was in the Landmark last week. Very nice hike to the Clinton Dam. Next up is a repeat of the Little Wachusett hike. Still getting 20 to 30 people per hike.
 6. Fieldstone Farm Update: No change from last meeting. The APR should be completed roughly by fall.
 - Cindy Dunn indicated that she is getting ready to use the Tuesday AM volunteers on trail construction work to get to Rte 62.
 - Con Com has completed the wetlands survey but still working to complete the maps. Once completed, Rick will invite some trail builders to walk the proposed trail and plan for trail work. We will develop trails on both sides of the wetlands, and will need some structures to connect them.
 7. Other Business:
 - Rick has added OSC/Trails/PLT information to the Kiosk near Krashes field.
 8. Recap of next steps:
 - Rick:
 - i. Mike will send Rick info on CRs in Princeton, and Rick will use this to update Karen's list.
 - ii. Landowner assessor maps for E. Princeton area and Clearings/Goodnow area
 - iii. Complete scouting of Mosher-to-town farm trails and set up a walk through
 - iv. Mark Cary trails with blue blazes
 - v. Arrange a walk-through to scout out possible trails at Goodnow park
 - Karen:
 - i. Update invitation to Landowners
 - Kelton:
 - i. Ask for a vote allowing use of Clearings Johnnie G. Trail (if we get a yes vote, then we can re-approach Ted Goodnow)
 9. Next meeting: Tuesday August 14th
 10. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner