

Present: Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow, Kelton Burbank

Excused: Kim Houde

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

1. Minutes from April were approved with some modifications.
2. Landowner Education:
 - Rick met with Mike Downey from DCR, and he has agreed to present and answer questions regarding Chapter 61 at our meeting. Mike would like to join us for an OSC meeting, perhaps with PLT, to review the agenda and goals of the meeting.
 - i. Mike suggests keeping his speaking piece to 15 or 20 minutes, and NOT getting into details of individual cases. Plan for time at the end for people to get additional information.
 - ii. He also suggested using LOCAL people to present two cases studies. And perhaps to have someone talk about allowing trail access (maybe Marie Auger?)
 - iii. We agreed to shoot for one hour of presentation and then an hour for informal discussion afterwards, perhaps with refreshments.
 - iv. Mike is working with some towns on conservation and trails planning. We should also discuss what he is doing with that.
 - v. Rick will also invite Tom Sullivan to the next meeting.
 - We agreed to target a week night in early November in the large Annex conference room.
 - Karen will get a list of landowners with over five acres and this will be our target audience. We will also ask assessors for an indication of conservation status on the list (CR? Chapter 61? Other?).
 - Karen will draft an invitation to Landowners. We will plan to have an agenda that shows who will speak.
3. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update:
 - We need to look for other options for LSF to East Princeton leg. Rick will pull together some maps and ideas for this. May involve more road walking or passing over DCR property.
 - Kelton reported that the Clearings people that he's talked to are OK with use of the Jonnie G trail as a connector. But it will need a formal vote. We agreed that Kelton should press them for a formal vote, 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 has explored a trail through DCR and Mosher land that goes out from Town Farm Road to the bottom of Gleason Road (not far from East Princeton). Before we approach the Moshers, Rick will organize a time to walk the Gleason Road to Houghton Road segment of this corridor, and will set up a time for interested members of our committee..
 - 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: Rick spoke to Hollie Lucht about using this area for trails. Hollie said that there are no plans to revive the frisbee park. Kelton asked about the value of the park for hiking...it's pretty small and also very hilly. We agreed to work on a plan for how we would construct trails and utilize the space. Perhaps with some grassy areas and picnic tables it would be a nice park?? Rick will organize another walkthrough of this area with an eye to developing a plan.
 - We discussed the idea of leaving sections of TAP informal. Kelton mentioned that Petersham has a network of informal trails...same issue...Landowners do not want use of their lands promoted for trails. No maps but informal hikes are OK. If we take this approach we should be able to move more quickly and to use DCR land...in several places this really opens up some great options. For example Gleason Road to Mosher Property to DCR to Town farm, then down Esty Road to Poutwater Pond. Etc.

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. We are still getting 20-30 people out for each hike. Some concern about a growing percentage of people from outside of Princeton, now up close to 50%. We will continue as is for now. We could change the promotional methods (eliminate promotion via the Landmark for example) if we need to. Next hikes are Clinton Dike/Dam/Tunnel and Little Wachusett.
6. Fieldstone Farm Update: 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:
 - Petee property is no longer an OSC issue. It was purchased last October by Ed Carlson.
 - Rick talked to Hollie Lucht about using the Kiosk near Krashes field. We have her permission for this. Rick will look into possibility of fixing the Kiosk and adding trails info. Sterling has several Kiosks that might provide good models...perhaps Peder Pederson can help us to design them.
8. Recap of next steps:
 - Rick:
 - i. Invite Mike and Tom to next meeting
 - ii. Landowner assessor maps for E. Princeton area and Clearings/Goodnow area
 - iii. Kiosk trails info at Krashes Field
 - iv. Complete scouting of Mosher-to-town farm trails and set up a walk through
 - v. Mark Cary trails with blue blazes
 - vi. Arrange a walk-through to scout out possible trails at Goodnow park
 - Karen:
 - i. Get assessor list of landowner with >5 acres, showing conservation status
 - ii. Draft 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 July 10th
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner