

Open Space Committee Minutes

March 7, 2017

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

Excused: Phil Gransewicz

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes from February 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 handed out copies of the most recent town brochure and Princeton Land Trust (PLT) Trail brochure. These are nearly ready to go, but we will wait to publish mid-year once the trails through PLT Alexander property and Fieldstone Farm are ready for use.
 - b. Rick mentioned that Princeton Land Trust reviewed the PLT brochure and they are OK with the idea, suggested some changes which have been made.
 - c. We agreed that brochures look very good. We need to add contact info (website, eMail).
 - d. We will not include maps for Savage Hill or Minns Wildlife Refuge, but we will list them as hiking places. For Savage Hill we can reference the MidState trail. For Minns we can describe briefly the trail but no map allowed per DCR.
 - e. Kim has info on the Four Corners project that she will send to Rick for Brochure work.
 - f. Consensus was to print a quantity (100-200) of the Princeton-wide/overview brochure and offer them at Library, Mountainside Market, Thirsty Lab, and kiosks. But really we want to push the on-line distribution idea.
 - g. Rick will add a QR Code to the brochure to allow people to get back to the town/open space website.
 - h. Rick handed out a draft of website detail on the Princeton trails. Will begin to get this set up with Lynne Grettum.
 - i. Rick also handed out a poster draft for twice/month Saturday trail events. Will get this started in late March. Poster will go up in the usual places, and this will be publicized through the Landmark, Facebook, Meetup, and Next Door Princeton. Several changes were made to the poster re the initial hike descriptions.
 - i. Rick: Work with Holly in Parks and Rec to get the word out and also to get posters posted.
3. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update: Not much activity this month. Will plan to meet again with the smaller group as we start to build the Fieldstone Farm trails. Action items still pending:
 - a. Landowner agreements with Jim Hillis and WMSR (Kelton).
 - b. Landowner discussion with Moshers (Justin Griffin).
 - c. Landowner link from PLT Peabody/Metcalf land to Johnny G Trail.
 - d. TPS to RedFox: Idea of using the Poutwater Trail. Will need DCR approval if we are to do this.
 - e. For Brooks Station Road to Calamint Hill Road: Justin Griffin is approaching that landowner.

- f. May be possible to connect from Four Corners to Mount Wachusett via Bickford Pond and Dave Krashes land. There are landowner issues and not certain how best to navigate through. Rick will do some more exploring.
- 4. Fieldstone Farm Update: We are ready to create the west site loop trail (from Calamint Hill). Rick is working with Brian Keevan to set up a work party. Not sure of status of the bridge work (Brian is driving that).
 - a. Karen reported that our trail funding grant is going to take up to four months for a decision.
- 5. Bickford Pond: Per request from Dave Krashes, we have been working with Janet Morrison on a project to remove/replace the no trespassing signs around Bickford Pond. Fitchburg has agreed to remove 'No Trespassing' if we pay for the signs. Rick has inventoried the signs and sent to Janet for an estimate.
 - a. We all agree that this is a good thing to do, but we would like to meet with the Fitchburg people to talk through allowed uses and make sure that we do this correctly. Rick will set that up via Janet.
- 6. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner