

Present: Rick Gardner, Deb Cary, Karen Rossow

Excused: Kelton Burbank, Kim Houde

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes from September were approved.
2. Trail Around Princeton (TAP) update:
  - Marking of the trail:
    - i. We will wait until we have some segments to mark. Group thinking is o mark only sections where we need to mark. Not Midstate for example, at least not at the start. And use a simple marking method such as paint.
  - Organization for meeting with Landowners:
    - i. More discussion about a possible 'trails committee' type organization.
    - ii. We have a few town-owned trails already that are not being maintained. Krashes Field, Goodnow Park, Boylston Park. Rick will check status of Boylston Park trail. We will meet on November 2 at 3PM to walk through Goodnow park and see what needs to be done. Rick has clears Krashes entrance to trails.
    - iii. Should OSC BE the trail committee or should we have a separate group to maintain and plan for trails. Surrounding towns use a number of different methods.
    - iv. Do we want a town-directed committee or an independent committee. There are advantages either way. May be best to keep effort independent.
    - v. We agreed to hold the discussion on Trails Committee until Kelton can join.
    - vi. We are still aiming for a small meeting with first few Landowners. This group is Jim Hillis, Dick Stuart, and Clayton Mosher. Kelton offered to set up a meeting with them. Once a date is set, Rick will draft a few slides for discussion purposes. See notes from July 2017.
    - vii. For now, we should consider using town roads as connectors in places where landowner approval is difficult. Would really like to move faster on this project!!
3. Trails mapping project update: Rick will publicize the new website in the Landmark this month and will follow up with promotion via Facebook, Next door and town news.
4. Princeton Hikes! Program: Program is ongoing. Attendance has been growing, and feedback s excellent.
  - We will have an Open Space booth at Hey Day was well-received and we got another 8 people for the mailing list (list is now 95 people). PrincetonFest was not very helpful due to the rain. We should do these next year as well.
  - Deb suggested that we try to get the display board set up permanently at the Library. Rick will check to see if they have room for it.
5. Fieldstone Farm Update: Still waiting for final resolution of wetland plans. Rick is meeting with Brian on October 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Rick needs to meet with the Hubbards to discuss connecting the Audubon trail to the new FF trails.
  - Deb mentioned that there is a high likelihood that the APR funding will finally come through from the state, so we should be able to complete the sales of the fields and proceed with the trail through Hubbard property.
6. Other Business:
  - Open Space Plan needs to be updated next year, not this year.

- Rick attended second CMRPC meeting to discuss collaboration across the region for mapping of trails. This was a smaller group, better meeting. Much more detail discussed on how to pull together trail maps.
  - i. Good panel discussion by three existing mappers including Montachusett RPC and Pioneer Valley RPC. Very useful to see how they did it.
  - ii. Need for a common list of attributes for the trails (distance, name, usage types, owner, etc).
  - iii. Discussion on how to get permissions for trail use.
  - iv. Discussions about adopting a state-wide method for mapping so we don't have problems at the RPC borders.
  - v. CMRPC is working towards a plan to have stakeholders provide maps in their areas. Will use CMRPS people plus volunteers.
  - vi. Will continue discussion in December.
  - vii. Next meeting in December
- Karen sent Dave Krashes a formal thank you for pushing to make Bickford Pond land available. We also had a chance to thank him during the Bickford Pond Hike in September (he came out to greet the hikers).
- Karen and Rick are both interested in attending the MA Trails Conference in Leominster on November 2-4. We voted to allocate funds to offset the \$45 cost. Karen will see if we can share a registration, since she can go on Saturday, Rick can go on Friday.

7. Next meeting: Wednesday October 8th or 15<sup>th</sup>. Rick will check on availability of the annex CR.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gardner