

## Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Sept 20, 2016

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

Not Present: Phil Gransewicz

- 1) Membership: Phil Gransewicz has been added to our membership. Not sure how, and he did not receive info about this meeting as we did not know he was on the committee! Kelton will check with Nina re procedures for adding members.
- 2) Trail Around Princeton
  - Kelton reported that there is a lot of discussion at the federal and state level about Mountain Bike usage. Studies show that biking impact is no greater than hiking impact. DCR is taking notice of this, especially regarding Rutland State Park.
  - Kelton is working to set up a meeting with Matt Beaton and also with Anne Gobi.
  - Rick mentioned that he hiked a really nice trail through Red Fox Farm to Mason fields (DCR), then to Trout Brook and then to the MA Rail trail to Oakdale. Only about a quarter mile of paved road walking all together. 8.7 miles. Not directly a TAP asset, but an interesting trail.
  - Kelton is still trying to nail down plan with Duane and Dennise at MWSR. Will continue to pursue this.
  - Rick recapped meetings with Norco Club. They have declined to allow us to mark a trail through their land via the AT+T line. Rick and Kelton had met with the Exec Board. Exec Board decided not to allow it, and reviewed decision with full membership. Main reasons:
    - Concern about safety and liability (despite state laws) especially due to the proximity of the AT+T line to some sections to their shooting range.
    - Concern about disruption of their hunting activities.
    - There is also some concern about erosion of the AT+T passageway, which they do use.

Jaye Fitzgerald also said that the land is open, and if people wish they can walk through. But they do not want it marked or posted or promoted, and they do not want to advertise as Norco land.

Last, we discussed a possibility of a new trail along Norco northwest boundary to Rte 31. Jaye said that this was not specifically discussed but it is unlikely to be approved. He suggested that if Mosher trail is approved by the Moshers, that we might go back to Norco club and give it a try.

- Mosher: Sue Cranford has been trying to set up a meeting with Moshers with no success. Deb volunteered to reach out to Sue and Moshers.
- Rick reported that Dave Smith (neighbor of Hillis) volunteered to reach out to Jim Hillis and set up a meeting. But this has not been done. Kelton volunteered to follow up with Dave and try to get a meeting with Moshers.

- Rick reported that Steve Kessler and Kimball Hall have been somewhat active but we really need to meet and discuss their findings in the West side of town. Rick volunteered to pursue working with them, for TAP and also for trails around Fieldstone Farm.
- We agreed that we need a simple to-do list to focus some actions over the next few months. Rick will send out a list and a reminder. See below.

### 3) Fieldstone Farm

- Pieces continue to fall into place. Private landowner sales are just about done. APRs still outstanding.
- Audubon is working on trail from Goodnow Road through to FF property, and plan is to proceed around the edge of FF to Hubbarston Rd. Then need to work on the trail to the South.
- Conservation Committee is still working to prepare the FF areas for trails.

### 4) Hall field

- Not a big issue at this time. The land is owned by Dave Hall's Sister and she has no plans to sell. and

The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall annex.

### **Our short term task list:**

#### Kelton tasks

- 1) pursue trail through Wachusett reservation with Duane and Denise
- 2) Meeting with Anne Gobi / Matt Beaton
- 3) Through Dave Smith, meet with Jim Hills re trail through his property
- 4) Resolve membership question with Phil Gransevitch (with Nina)

#### Deb task

- 1) Contact Sue Cranford and help setting up meeting with Mosher re trail through their property.

#### Rick Task

- 1) Restart work by Steve Kessler, Kimball Hall, and others on trails on the red fox to calamine hill to midstate side. Also on the Smith Farm side.