

Open Space Committee Minutes

June 25, 2012, Memorial Hall

Members in Attendance: David Schochet, Cynthia Boettner, Norman Beebe, Doug Finn, Linda Herrera, Rita Jaros, Larry Flaccus

Meeting called to order 7:10

Minutes from April 21 were amended and accepted unanimously as amended. Larry noted that the legislation to fund the CPA from the budget surplus, mentioned in the minutes, was passed.

New Business

Discussion on updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRC):

- Need to form a "steering subcommittee" to work on this with FRCOG. David is willing to be a lead and others said they would work with him.

- Cynthia said that before a survey is done it would be good to have an open meeting to hear what's on people's minds, involve the town's people from the beginning. The survey could then be designed to include concerns expressed.

Discussion: FRCOG could help find a good facilitator. This would be a visioning meeting, not for debating opinions.

-The process should include representatives from the Recreation Committee, the Library, the Senior Center as well as other town committees as the plan includes Cultural Recreation (a FRCOG point).

Priority: Use the FRCOG grant money for updating prioritized GIS maps this summer, especially with overlays of property line data.

David will be in touch with FRCOG to discuss prioritizing their assistance as the grant money will end December 31, 2012.

David brought up the Selectboard's request that the Open Space Committee take the lead in working out a plan to bring the Conservation Protection Act to a town vote. The Committee felt that this would deflect from the effort to update the OSRP and recommended that the Selectboard take the leadership role on this.

Old Business

Cynthia reports that people doing garlic mustard pulls should use care in getting the heads into bags as it is going to seed now. Japanese Stilt Grass is working its way up Bardwell Ferry Road and Shelburne Falls Road and now is the time to try to control it. There is a July 12 education session at 7:00 pm at the Conway Town Hall.

There are also planned eradication efforts scheduled for August 9, 10, 11, 20, 25.

David reported that he and Sue Reed staffed a table at Riverfest and gave out hiking brochures and 6 landowner packets, as well as backyard conservation booklets.

Some of the Woodland Trail (which is in the hiking brochure) still needs to be blazed and the ID signs need to be put up. David will try to get out with John Payne to ID trees.

The agriculture questionnaire from the state could be filled out by the Open Space Committee since the Ag Committee doesn't seem to be meeting regularly. Larry will try to look into this.

The final version of the Land Evaluation Workbook has to be clarified. Larry and Cynthia will figure this out.

Next Meeting: July 23, 2012

Adjourned: 9:10

Respectfully submitted:

Rita Jaros, Sec'y Protem (6/25), and official Clerk of the Committee