

## OSC Meeting Minutes 5/23/22 Approved 6/27/22

**Members Present:** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus, Joan Greenfield, David Schochet, Jim Perry,

**Guests:** Kimberly McPhee and Andrea Gnocchi from FRCOG; Laurie Wheeler from Arms Library

Larry called the **meeting to order** at 7:03 pm meeting via Zoom and recorded

**Minutes of 4/25/22 accepted** with a few small corrections. Jim Perry moved to accept, Joan Greenfield seconded, accepted unanimously.

**Arms Library Director Laurie Wheeler joined us to report** that she has met with Joan and has spoken with Jim, in order to plan several village walks in conjunction with the Village Info Center. Laurie will lead some of the walks, and others will be self directed. An additional four hikes, each in a different month, will be led by Jim, and will tie into the Library's summer reading program: **July 9th's hike** will be on the Mohican Mohawk Trail starting at the Franklin Land Trust pulloff on Rte 2; **August 13th Wooded Loop's** yellow and orange trails with a focus on forest management; **September 10<sup>th</sup>** will feature The Big Trees trail, up to the Fire Tower; and **October 8th will feature** a hike to the High Ledges. Laurie is considering bringing in a naturalist with plant knowledge.

### Open Space Plan Renewal

Kimberly and Andrea stopped to talk with us about our Open Space Plan renewal. There is a grant for Rowe and Shelburne which may be available for us to use towards our Open Space Plan renewal; however, we will not know if it is funded until the end of August or September. We do have funding that will carry us until then. We may also have a seven thousand dollar **MVP grant available** which we should know about in June. The MVP program is very much about public engagement and outreach. Additionally, It will be **important to weave climate resiliency into** our Open Space plan. Kimberly will send us an example of a climate resiliency story map. We will need to look at our old seven year action plan and see what needs to be carried over into the new update.

Andrea spoke about **a draft survey** she had put together. Larry said we want to see how the answers to our last survey compare to those of our new survey. The survey will be on paper as well as online. The paper ones are then entered onto Survey Monkey so the results can be collated with the ones that have been entered online. Andrea said she is new to FRCOG and has been looking at surveys that have been done in the last few years. She has also reviewed the two previous surveys from Shelburne. Jim said he like the way the 2014 survey was done and thought the same questions would really show how things had changed. Jim and Larry both thought demographics should be kept at the end and the language used should be plain and simple. Joan questioned how **we'd measure success of this survey**. David said we had a 13% response rate last time and we were told that was an amazing amount. **Kimberly will look in to the availability of funding to mail out paper surveys to residents**. Larry agreed **that September should be when the survey should be sent out**. **A subcommittee consisting of Joan, Jim and Norm will help Andrea refine a draft survey we can discuss at our July meeting**.

## **Trails Update**

**Wooded Loop Trail** - Larry wrote to Helen and Margaret Payne **about extending the trail to Summit Road**. Helen said they are happy with our partnership and have a positive attitude about extension of the trail. Jim said some work needs to be done for the extension but nothing too crazy. We will try to set up a tour of a proposed trail with the Paynes and interested members in July. Joel will try to find the location of a natural formation in the ledge which might be incorporated into the walk.

**River Trail** - Guntlow Associates got back to Larry about surveying of easements related to the River Trail with a **quote of \$11,200**. Larry said this did not include everything he thought it would and feels we will have to decline this offer and also decline the Woodland Partnership money we were going to use to help pay Guntlows for this survey. Joel suggested we might contact a local surveyor, such as Dan Warner, to see if he can conduct the needed work at a more reasonable price.

**Fire Tower Trail** - Jim spoke with the author of a book about fire towers in New England and noted that we may get some exposure of our trail through that.

## **CPA Update**

A pre-Town Meeting discussion will take place on May 26th. The CPA will be on the town warrant for June. The committee is recommending the 3% rate to make the most use of the program and State matching funds. The Finance Committee is not in favor of the CPA.

Committee members will **look at bearwise.org** to see if there is a pamphlet there we may use at our trail heads.

**David said we need new members.** Recreation Committee and Planning Board are the only committee liaisons that regularly come to meetings and that there are five open seats. Joan will see if Laurie Wheeler might be interested in becoming a member. We can also promote membership at the library hikes.

## **Recreation Committee Report by Norm**

They are still offering basketball and volleyball for adult drop ins at the Cowell Gymnasium and are going to be doing pickleball outdoors three days per week. They have also recovered their email list.

There is no correspondence and no guests comments.

Next meeting is Monday June 27th at 7 pm via Zoom.

Jim Perry moved to adjourn, Norm Beebe seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:57 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem