

MINUTES
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
May 14, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

Colleen Barclay, Marianne Blanchet, Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, Bill Greenwood, and Karen Merrill

CALL TO ORDER:

Selectmen's Room of the Dracut Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

It was noted that one of the Board of Selectmen liaisons to our committee, Tony Archinski, is now the Selectmen's Chairperson.

OSC TRAIL GUIDE:

The final revisions were made to the new brochure (the top of the back was centered and the email address was added) and the committee accepted it. Bruce reported that he went to Shannon and learned that the invoice has been submitted and paid for. The brochure was also reviewed by the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen.

PROPRIETORS' WAY:

Bill reported that he and Bruce met with Selectman Tony Archinski and Town Counsel James Hall. The only issue with this parcel is a 150 foot section bordering the Ogonowski family and the Zygouris family. He reported that Peggy Ogonowski agrees with making a public way. Atty. Hall will work with the town engineer and will map it out as a public way. He will also have Peggy sign legal documents and Tony will bring it to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

CONFERENCE REPORT:

Bruce reported that he and Dave Sutherland attended the 3rd Biennial Open Space Conference in Ashburnham on May 9th. The conference is hosted by MassLIFT and Americorps and provides an information sharing forum for Open Space Committees from across the state. Conference sessions were hosted by open space and community preservation committee members and included open space members' topics of interest. These topics included; land protection, project funding, invasives management, the Community Preservation Act, trail creation and protection, landowner outreach, keeping the open space plan alive, and using GIS and field tools. The Massachusetts Open Space Conference will be creating a website to help provide various resources the people interested in protecting and stewarding open spaces. They are also on Facebook as *Massachusetts Open Space Network*.

ACTIVITIES:

Birding event: Bruce has been communicating with an ornithologist (bird expert), Mike Baird. We hope to invite him to make a presentation in the fall.

Kayaking on Long Pond: Emile invited the committee to kayak from his house this spring. We agreed that it will be weather pending, so we will leave it up to Emile to watch the weather and organize this event.

DRACUT LAND TRUST:

While discussing options for clearing this parcel, the committee noted that a total clearing would be more involved than an eagle scout would be able to complete. We may enlist a scout to place benches, build a bridge over the wetlands, and/or perform other projects there. The committee agreed to go to the parcel to do some clearing on May 21st. Bill also reported that there will be a dedication at the Water Department building on June 7th at 1:00PM. Bruce has been asked to make a short speech at that event.

SITE VISITS:

Karen suggested that we notify Selectmen about the work we are doing. Bruce agreed to inform them about the new sign that the Open Space Committee installed at the Nickel Brook site. Marianne reported that she has been to McNamara Way and it was very clear. On the other hand, she reported that Long Pond is extremely overgrown and will need a lot of work to clear.

SCHEDULING PROTOCOL:

Bill suggested that we create a by-law delineating the process for scheduling special meetings. Bill made a motion stating that if scheduling a special meeting is required outside of a normal meeting, the chair should be required to speak to each committee member individually and if any member expresses an interest in attending the meeting, but cannot attend a particular date, the date must be changed. The motion was seconded by Marianne. Discussion ensued regarding what by-laws we are required to follow. We are aware of various laws, rules and expectations, such as Open Meeting laws, but we are unsure if there are by-laws specific to us, if we fall under the same rules as the Selectmen, or if there are no rules we are expected to follow. Bruce agreed to look into the Selectmen's expectations of us. Bill agreed to rescind the motion until the next schedule Open Space Committee meeting when we have more information.

MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS:

Bruce will send his write up of meeting notes and details of the birding info to Marianne.

ADJOURNMENT:

Bill made a motion to adjourn at 8:00PM which was seconded by Colleen and passed unanimously.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Selectmen on June 9th.

Upcoming Open Space meetings are scheduled for the following dates, although Bruce notes that we may schedule a month off in the summer if the committee agrees:

Thursday, June 11, 2015 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, at 6:30PM.

Thursday, July 9, 2015 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, at 6:30PM.

Thursday, August 13, 2015 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, at 6:30PM.

Thursday, September 10, 2015 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, at 6:30PM.

Thursday, October 8, 2015 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, at 6:30PM.

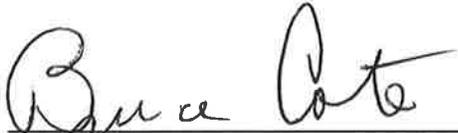
Thursday, November 12, 2015 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, at 6:30PM.

Thursday, December 10, 2015 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, at 6:30PM.

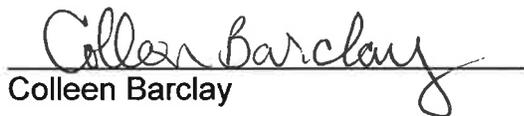
THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Signature Page

May 14, 2015



Bruce Cote, Chairperson



Colleen Barclay



Marianne Blanchet



Emile Demers



Bill Greenwood



Karen Merrill

Dave Sutherland