

MINUTES
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
June 11, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce opened the June 2015 Dracut Open Space Committee meeting at 6:35PM in the Selectmen's Room of the Dracut Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements at this meeting.

MAY MINUTES

Bill moved to accept the May minutes as amended. That motion was seconded by Colleen and passed unanimously.

OSC TRAIL GUIDE:

Bruce reported that the brochure has been finalized and that they have been well received in multiple venues so far.

ACTIVITY PLANNING

Birding event – The committee hopes to coordinate a date with Mike Baird for him to make his birding presentation. Bruce agreed to see if September 27th at 10AM would be a good time. Karen noted that we could plan to advertise/announce this event on DATV, at Selectmen's meetings, on the Town Website, through the CPC and perhaps if we can contact some of the PTO's.

Long Pond Kayaking – Emile agreed to host a kayaking event from his home on this coming Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30. Emile states that he will invite Glen Edwards and Bruce will contact our Selectmen liaisons.

Videotaping of Trails – Karen agreed to contact Bob and Gay Corey to work on our videotaping project. Karen noted that they planned on starting with the smallest parcel, McNamara Way. It was also suggested that we invite them to our kayaking event. They can join us or tape us from the shore.

TOWN MEETING REVIEW

-We reviewed some of the decisions made at this year's Dracut Spring Town Meeting. The Richardson property will now be owned by the Dunstable Land Trust, because a third-party has to own it in order to have a conservation restriction. The conservation rights are now owned by the Dracut Land Trust. The land will stay farmland.

-Beaver Brook Farm (under 30 acres) was purchased by the town for \$2.5 million, including the house and acreage. Richardson plans to live in the house for one year and the Vision Committee plans to have a decision about the plans for this parcel by then.

-Four town retirements were announced; Glen Edwards, Assistant Town Manager and Town Planner; Bill Zounis, Veteran's Agent and Human Resources; Michael R. Buxton, DPW Director, and Thomas F. Bomil, Health Director.

SELECTMEN PRESENTATION REVIEW

Bruce reported that his presentation to the Selectmen went well. He reported that the conversation was lively and that two of the students who worked on the new brochure attended and spoke well in front of the Selectmen. The committee work and the new brochure were appreciated by the Selectmen.

DRACUT LAND TRUST TRAIL DEDICATION

Bruce reported that he made a presentation, along with government leaders and other involved committee representatives. Bill, Marianne, Emile and Dave attended. Bruce read his speech to the committee for the members who were unable to attend. Emile noted the quality of all speeches. Bill reported on the walk of the trail following the dedication. He told us that the boy scout was able to show the hikers where he plans to put planks to go over wetlands, 2 benches and signs. He is finalizing the required paperwork so the work will be able to begin soon.

SITE VISIT REPORTS

- Bruce reported that he went to Nickel Mine and found it to be very clean. The mosquitoes were very active and the bittersweet was thick, but he reports that there has been no increased digging or ATV tracks.
- Emile stated that he has walked past the Long Pond parcel and the encroachment remains, if not increased. We will continue to update our Selectmen liaisons so they can ensure that the proper steps continue to happen. Bruce agreed to get an update on the status of the action. The committee agreed to do a clean up of Long Pond on Wednesday, June 24th at 6:00PM. The hope is that two hours of the full committee working, will be enough to clear that trail.
- The committee also agreed to work on Proprietors' Way on July 1st at 6:00. We will plan to be there for approximately two hours.

SPECIAL MEETING PLANNING

As promised, Bruce reviewed the guidelines that our committee is expected to follow, especially the ones regarding planning special meetings. There are no clear regulations in place, but Bruce does have the Selectmen's by-laws on this topic. They only call special meetings at a regular meeting where the planning can be done in person and agreement is in place. The committee agreed that this is a good plan for moving forward. Bruce also noted that only the topic that the meeting was called for is to be discussed. We agreed that this is what we did. From now on, the committee agreed to follow this plan.

MEETING SUMMARY

Bruce reviews his notes on the meeting including action items. He agrees to notify absent committee members and Selectmen liaisons about all our upcoming events.

MEETING SCHEDULE

After some discussion about having a by-month in the summer, Bill made a motion to skip the scheduled August meeting which is now scheduled for August 13th. Colleen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

SCHEDULED MEETING DATES (AS REVISED)

All meetings are currently scheduled for 6:30PM in the Selectmen's Room at Dracut Town Hall

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Thursday, October 8, 2015

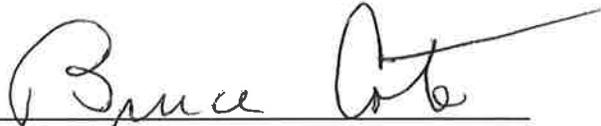
Thursday, November 12, 2015

Thursday, December 10, 2015

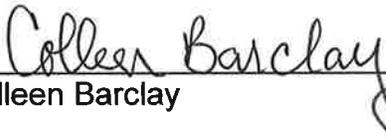
THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Signature Page

June 11, 2015



Bruce Gote, Chairperson



Colleen Barclay



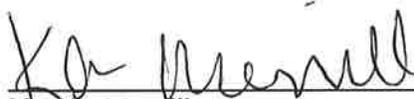
Marianne Blanchet



Emile Demers



Bill Greenwood



Karen Merrill



Dave Sutherland