

MINUTES
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
October 8, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

Colleen Barclay, Marianne Blanchet, Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, Bill Greenwood, Karen Merrill, and Dave Sutherland attended tonight's meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:38PM, Bruce opened the October 2015 Dracut Open Space Committee meeting in the Selectmen's Room of the Dracut Town Hall.

JULY AND SEPTEMBER MINUTES

The minutes of our last two meetings were reviewed by the committee. Bill moved to accept the July minutes as amended which Colleen seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dave made a motion to accept the September minutes. Karen seconded and that motion also passed unanimously. There was no meeting in August.

ACTIVITIES

○ Birding event

Karen reported that the event went great. It was very informative and extremely interesting. She noted that there will be another event in the spring, so those who missed it will still have a chance to attend. Our speaker suggested that there will be even more to see and hear in the Spring when the birds return north and are building nests, etc. Karen said that there were about six to eight people in attendance outside of the committee. They came with binoculars and they were able to see many different species. Bob and Gay were videotaping this event.

Bruce noted that there are surveyor stakes in place. Bill checked with Mark Hamel, town surveyor, who said that these are legitimate stakes noting where new housing boundaries are.

○ Videotaping

Karen has talked to Bob and Gay and will get back to them about taping site visits starting with McNamara Way.

SITE VISIT REPORTS

- There were not reports on individual sites, although Karen noted that the Preserve looked good during the birding event.

- Proprietors' Way clearing and trail update

We noted that from the golf course end, where we have been clearing, this trail has been cleared as far as we can go and that we may have to start clearing from the other end.

We understand that Tony is still working on a contact who will be able to advocate for us to use the part of the trail that belongs to the Zygouris family. Bruce reported that they cleared the other entrance to the trail, but turned off to the right and cleared to the Water Dept. tower.

Emile reported that he spoke to the groundskeeper from the golf course who joked that he thought gnomes were coming and clearing the trail. The groundskeeper stated that he is pleased with the work being done and if we can park behind the shed to be closer.

DISCUSSION

- Bruce reported that the CPC is looking at the Colburn Ave. parcel, which is 61A land. The parcel has some roadblocks including that it is made up of 19 acres in Dracut and 5 or 6 acres in Pelham. The price is \$675,000. The CPC voted to take no action on this parcel.
- Karen reported that there is a property for sale at 7 Hope Ave., at the top of Old Road. If purchased can be used for haying and open space trails. One potential advantage to buying this property is that many of the abutters may be willing to sell in the near future, which would make the property more attractive.
- Karen also noted that there is a parcel at 600 Marsh Hill and Richardson Road which is owned by the Yapp family and for sale for \$800K. CPC is looking to buy it.
- Bruce stated that he met with Betsy Ware, (eware@dracut.ma.gov) who is the new Dracut Development Manager. Betsy reports that she is actively looking for grants. She feels this is something she can be successful at. Bruce is putting together a list of proposals about what we want done. She also shared with him that the Fleur de Lis owner recently passed and there may be some changes made there. The Fleur de Lis is in Tyngsboro, but there is some access to the lake right beside that. Betsy would also like to implement some town-run Farmers' Markets.
- Open Space Charter
Bruce provided an updated draft of the Open Space Committee Charter which was worked on at the last meeting and modeled after the Selectmen's Charter. Some changes and corrections were made. There was some discussion about whether or not we are, or should be, following Robert's Rules of Order. Dave initiated a conversation about whether or not it is actually appropriate, or in our best interest, for our committee to have a charter at all. Bruce will make the suggested changes and the committee will consider how to address this topic at the November meeting.
- Face Book page
We had a conversation about or not it is appropriate or necessary for our committee to have their own Face Book page. Karen agrees to talk to Tony about it, asking specifically questions about set up, limitations, etc.
- Open Space Guide
Karen noted that our Open Space Guide has been update on our website. Bruce brings it up on the screen for verification.

NEW BUSINESS

- Karen reported that the Open Space Committee received several compliments at Glen Edwards' retirement party.
- Emile distributes a flyer for a trip to the Mohegan Sun Casino to benefit the Dracut Pathfinders. The trip will be on November 14th and will leave DHS at 7:15 AM and proceed to Andover Park and Ride for 8:00 AM. The trip will leave the casino at 4:00 PM to arrive in Andover at 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$35.00 and will include round trip bus transportation, a \$15 meal ticket and a \$10 betting ticket.

ADJOURN:

Bill moved to adjourn this meeting. Karen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

SCHEDULED MEETING DATES:

The following monthly meetings are currently scheduled.

Thursday November 12, 2015 – Dracut Town Hall, 6:30 PM

Thursday December 10, 2015 – Dracut Town Hall, 6:30 PM

DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Minutes Approval
October 8, 2015 Minutes

Bruce R Cote
BRUCE COTE, Chair

Bill Greenwood
BILL GREENWOOD

Colleen Barclay
Colleen Barclay

Karen Merrill
KAREN MERRILL

David B. Suttach
DAVID B. SUTTACH

Marianne Blanchet
MARIANNE BLANCHET

Emile Demers
EMILE DEMERS