

MINUTES
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
October 26, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee members Marianne Blanchet, Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, Bill Greenwood, and Dave Sutherland attended tonight's special meeting with Town Manager Jim Duggan and members of the Board of Selectmen Tony Archinski and Tami Drisitiliaris.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00PM, Bruce opened this special meeting of the Dracut Open Space Committee in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Dracut Town Hall by explaining that the purpose of this meeting is to clarify items discussed at previous Open Space Committee meetings.

DISPOSITION OF FUNDS

- Bruce explained that there have been some questions raised about how much money will be available to our committee and how that can be used. Jim offered to ask Samantha about the amount of money raised at Glen's retirement party. Jim went on to state that he believes the money is technically Glen's, although he has already made it clear that he intends to donate that money to the Open Space Committee.
- Tony noted that the Open Space Committee has been spending their own money to fund events and have been using personal equipment to clear sites, causing damage to several pieces of equipment. Jim stated that he does not intend to see that continue, and he offers that any time the committee needs money, we should approach him. Tony suggested that in the next budget, the Open Space Committee be given an annual budget to be used at their discretion for Open Space needs. Jim agreed and stated that he will establish a line item in his next budget. The amount suggested was \$2000.00.
- The concern about liability for committee members was raised and Jim will consult with town council about that.

FACEBOOK PAGE

- Bruce provided some details about our plans to begin a Facebook page. Jim notes that he has two conditions before he believes this should happen.
 - The committee should appoint a single administrator to monitor and update the site.
 - The page be linked to the town's new website once that is completed.

Bruce assured him that we are unlikely to want anything different from that. Karen Merrill has been working on this issue and we will discuss details with the committee at the next meeting.

BY-LAWS

- Bruce provides a copy of our last draft of the by-laws. Tony explains to Jim that these closely mimic the Selectmen's by-laws. Jim agrees to confer with town council.
- The question was also raised that it may be more restricting than helpful to have by-laws at all.

PROPRIETORS' WAY

- Tony reports that he met with Michael Blatus who acted as liaison to Mr. Zygouris. The parcel that remains to be cleared on this strip of land belongs to Mr. Zygouris. If this strip is not made accessible, the trail could be re-routed to Ogonowski's land, but that part is much more dense and overgrown. It would require the route to be rerouted slightly. Using the Zygouris land would require an easement. Mr. Zygouris would like to better understand what our goals are and to see a benefit to relinquishing the rights to this strip of land. He requested to talk to Tony who will arrange a meeting between him, Mr. Zygouris and Bill Greenwood.
- Once the route is decided, Tony will talk to Mike Buxton about clearing it as a special project.

LONG POND

- Tony spoke to town council and they will send a surveyor (Bill McCloud) to survey the land. Jim notes that he will have the surveyor go through the law office to expedite it and he will deal with those costs through the legal budget.
- Bill suggests that the Red Top section of that property be included since this piece is also not specifically drawn out.

DRACUT PATHFINDERS

- Potential funding through the newly formed non-profit, Dracut Pathfinders Committee, may be handled differently if the plan for town funding becomes a certainty.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The special meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM.

SCHEDULED MEETING DATES:

- The following regular 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

OPEN Space Committ^{ee}
MEETINGS APPROVAL SHEET
MEETING October 26, 2015

BRUCE R. COTE, CHAIR - Bruce R Cote

DAVID SUTHERLAND - D. Sutherland

MARIANNE BLANCHET - 

Emile Demers - Emile Demers

Bill Greenwood - Bill Greenwood