

**Minutes**  
***Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting***  
**November 13, 2014**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Marianne Blanchet, Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, Bill Greenwood, Karen Merrill and Dave Sutherland.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Bruce opened this month's meeting of the Dracut Open Space Committee at 6:30PM in the Dracut Historic Society.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:**

Life Scout and potential Eagle Scout, Charlie Ritchie, attended this meeting accompanied by his parents, Marvin and Heidi Ritchie. Charlie reports that he is a member of Troop 80 and he is hoping to work on a parcel overseen by the Open Space Committee. He provides a proposal packet for one of those potential projects. Charlie toured the East Richardson Preserve and noted the following areas that are in need of improvement/repair.

- Improve sign at main gate – change existing paper sign and map to something more permanent and weatherproof.
- Possibly enhance and re-label existing trail map to include trail names, points of interest, areas of water, and preserve boundaries.
- Wooden trail names signs – replace two or three that are missing, and repair one that is loose.
- Painted trail markers – refresh paint on red/blue/green trails, and possibly add a few additional markers on areas of blue and green trail that are less clearly marked.

Charlie's packet included pictures of several of the signs and markers in need of repair, as well as a topographical map of the site showing the trails. He explained that the process included planning, approval, fundraising, managing participants and final presentation.

The board provided alternate options such as new trails at the Dracut Land Trust parcel on Broadway Rd. and the Proprietors' Way piece attached to the golf course. The committee offered to walk these properties with him if he would benefit from it. He will review options and keep in touch.

**REVIEW OF OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup> MINUTES:**

The Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed and corrections/changes were made. Bruce moved to accept the minutes as amended. Bill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS/PLAN FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:**

**Community Preservation Committee**

Disappointment was expressed about the decision to disallow purchase of tools for trail improvement. Bill reports that in a conversation he had with Guy Steucek, he offered his tools to the committee as needed. Karen noted that Helen Dunlap related to her that while further investigating our request for tools, she learned we could rent tools on a case by case basis. Bruce agrees to contact Helen to understand exactly how CPC funds could be used. We also agreed that representation from our committee should be at their next meeting. Bruce agreed to attend their meeting on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Historical Society.

**Conservation Commission Meeting**

The Open Space Committee requested time at a Conservation Commission meeting to discuss the Long Pond area. Some of the trails are overgrown again and need maintenance. OSC members have noticed abutters using the land to store personal property. The proposed meeting would discuss any potential trail work and the abutters' property storage issue.

Bruce provides a copy of the letter from Lori Cahill to Attorney Jim Hall requesting legal action be started against Long Pond neighbors who have been encroaching on conservation land. The committee expresses that they are pleased with this action. Bruce will learn when they meet next and we will discuss having representative(s) of our committee at that meeting.

### Meeting with Town Manager

Bruce reports that at his meeting with Town Manager, James Duggan, was primarily a brainstorming session. Bruce presented the Open Space Committee mission statement, site maps, and current project list. They discussed funding issues and current problems maintaining the sites. They also discussed our connection with CPC and the Conservation Commission. The Town Manager requested a follow-up meeting for late January 2015.

### **SITE VISITS/ACTIVITES, PLAN 'CLEAN UP' DATES AS NECESSARY:**

Proprietors' Way – The committee agreed to meet at this site on 11/22 at noon to work.

McNamara Way – Karen reports that the filming with Bob and Gay had some issues. She, Colleen and Emile represented the committee. The site was very clean. Bob reported to Karen that there were wiring problems and that much of the filming will have to be re-done. Karen will check with them about when it will be convenient for them to visit the site again.

Nickel Mine – no report

Rifle Range/Cross Road – Bill reports that this site is also very clean and that the fire pits have been used.

East Richardson Preserve – Dave reports that he took a short walk through some of this parcel and found that there is at least one tree that needs to be cleared. Bill and Dave agreed to take some time on 11/22 to clear that since the committee will be working on two other parcels that day.

Long Pond – no report

Dracut Land Trust property on Broadway Road – Bill reports that at the last Dracut Land Trust meeting, they discussed an interest in walking the site with our committee. Bill reports that there are some parts that could be highlighted, such as a vernal pool. The committee agreed to meet with them on Saturday, 11/22 at 2PM at the Broadway Road parking area.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

#### Open Session Reserved for New Items Requiring Committee Attention

Bruce states that he talked to bird expert, Mike Baird, who noted that there will be more birds to see in the spring. Bruce sent him a PDF of the Open Space properties map.

Bill reports that the Dracut Water Department voted at their last meeting to allow parking, signs and a small trail leading to the main Proprietors' Way trail from their property.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE:**

--Quarterly Meeting Dates

The committee agreed that our next meeting will be held on December 11, 2014 at the Dracut Historical Society at 6:30PM. and that we will decide on the dates for the first quarter of 2015 at that meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Bruce made a motion to adjourn the October 9<sup>th</sup> Open Space meeting at 8:15PM and that motion was seconded by Bill. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes**  
***Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting***  
**December 11, 2014**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Colleen Barclay, Marianne Blanchet, Bruce Cote, Bill Greenwood, Karen Merrill and Dave Sutherland.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Bruce opened this month's meeting of the Dracut Open Space Committee at 6:30PM in the Dracut Historic Society.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bruce announced a meeting about the pipeline and talk ensued about the new route this pipeline is proposed to take.

Bruce also reports that we received a letter from the CPC requesting requests for new funding needs.

**REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> MINUTES:**

The committee reviewed the minutes of the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and corrections/changes were made. Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and Bill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:**

Bill reports that after our tour of the site, scout Charlie Ritchie seems interested in working on the Land Trust parcel and may attend the January meeting with a proposal. Karen reminds us that this parcel does not come under the purview of our committee, but the committee will offer assistance as possible. Dave notes that Charlie would be wise to get approval from DLT by February. Charlie plans to call Bill back after the holiday.

**SITE VISITS:**

**Proprietors' Way** – Committee members helped clean up this parcel on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tonight we were reminded that abutters have rights of access, but not necessarily the general public, and that this parcel comes under that auspices of the Recreation Department.

**McNamara Way** – Karen will talk with Bob & Gay about further work on this site.

**Nickel Mine** – No new report about this parcel.

**Rifle Range/Cross Road** – No new report about this parcel.

**East Richardson Preserve** – Bill reports that he took down the tree that Dave had reported on at the November meeting.

**Long Pond** – No new report about this parcel.

**Dracut Land Trust property on Broadway Road** – The committee walked this property on November 22<sup>nd</sup> with DLT members and Charlie's mother.

**CPA FUNDING DOCUMENT**

Bruce emailed the committee a copy of this funding request.

**How Open Space Parcels Were Obtained**

To the best of our knowledge, the only land directly purchased with CPC funds is the East Richardson Preserve.

**Potential CPC Funding Ideas**

Few new ideas for funding were offered since details for our funding requests from last year are not completely worked out.

## **MA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION GRANT DOCUMENT**

Bruce provides information about these grants. The committee decided that because the grant request must be submitted prior to December 30, 2014 and the work must be completed before May 30, 2015, it is too late to make decisions and apply in an appropriate manner for this year. We will try to take advantage of this opportunity next year when we can plan better. Bruce agreed to check with the state about a definition of “passive” and he will approach our selectmen about designating parcels as recreation.

## **MA OPEN SPACE CONFERENCE DOCUMENT**

Bruce responded about this conference and will get back to us.

## **OPEN PROJECT UPDATES**

**Proprietors’ Way** – As noted above, the committee cleared about 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile in approximately three hours. This is approximately 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the work that has been done so far. Much of the work that remains will be much thicker and very damp.

**Public Forum Speaker Plans** – Karen continues to attempt to contact Rick Reault about speaking about bees.

**Planning for Site Signage Project** – No new report about project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was raised at this meeting.

## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

Upcoming meetings were approved for the following dates

Thursday, January 08, 2015 in the Dracut Historical Society at 6:30PM

Thursday, February 12, 2015 in the Dracut Historical Society at 6:30PM

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:10PM, Bruce moved to adjourn the December 11<sup>th</sup> Open Space meeting and Bill seconded that motion which passed unanimously.

# THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

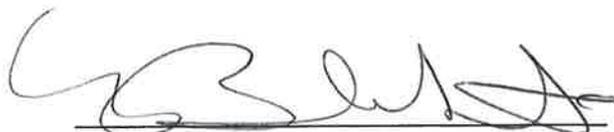
## *Signature Page*



Bruce Cote, Chairperson

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Colleen Barclay



Marianne Blanchet



Emile Demers

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Bill Greenwood



Karen Merrill



Dave Sutherland

BETSY'S EMAIL