

MINUTES
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
December 10, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:30PM, Bruce opened the December meeting of the Dracut Open Space Committee in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Dracut Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce explained that there was a mix up with posting the November meeting which resulted in that meeting being cancelled. Bruce also announced that he cleared up the problem with the new town email addresses, so he will be able to stay in contact with them.

OCTOBER MINUTES

- The committee was given time to review the minutes of the October 8th meeting. Dave made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Bill and passed unanimously.
- The committee also reviewed the October 26th special meeting minutes. Bill moved to accept these minutes as amended and Dave seconded. This motion also passed unanimously.

OPEN SPACE CHARTER

There was much discussion on the details of the proposed charter. Substantial changes were made to the content, and some of the language. Dave reiterated his objection to creating a charter, stating it was redundant and unnecessary. Karen asked if special meetings protocols were addressed with the Board of Selectmen by-laws. We reviewed those by-laws and found that they were. There was also discussion about whether or not subcommittees of the Board of Selectmen are required to follow the Selectmen's by-laws. There was no mention of this in their by-laws. Marianne questioned why this needed a 2/3 vote when all our other votes have always been a simple majority. The committee felt that it was the right way to go about this vote. We also decided that a roll call vote would be appropriate. Karen made a motion to accept the charter with the new changes. Emile seconded and Bruce conducted a roll call vote. Bruce, Karen, Emile and Bill voted for the charter. Marianne, Colleen and Dave voted against. This did not make the 2/3 requirement, therefore the vote failed.

ACTIVITIES

Videotaping

Karen reports that she has been in touch with Gay and Bob who gave some available dates for taping site visits. The committee agreed that it would be best to start with McNamara Way. We decided that January 10th was the best date. Karen agrees to report back to Bob and Gay and will send out reminders when the date gets close.

SITE WORK

- Proprietors Way
Dave, Bill, Emile and Karen worked on coming in from the Old Marsh Hill Road entrance on October 31st. They report that the brush is much thicker on that side, so they didn't make much headway.
Bill reported that Tony sent him an email asking him to write a letter explaining in detail what we would like the Zygouris Family to do concerning making a public way through the Zygouris's property. Bill will email the the letter to Tony who will pass it along to Mr. Zygouris and his son. Dave requested that Bill forward the email to the rest of the committee. Emile suggested that we make Mr. Zygouris aware that we have scheduled maintenance for cleanups, making the idea of releasing that piece of land more attractive.
- Dave reported that there has not been further development on the BMX track in the Rifle Range Parcel, but they have improved what they already had there. Emile stated that last year they covered it with plastic in the winter. Dave also reports that there had been a fire there, but it was done well and appeared to be done safely.
- Karen noticed that there have been more cars on Cross Road and Varnum since the new signs went up.
- Emile cleaned up at Long Pond. He said that there were beer bottles and cans and some chairs. He also reported that the trucks that had been removed from the property at the town's request, have been returned.
- Bruce responded to a citizen complaint about a mess at McNamara Way. He went and removed what he could.
- Bruce also went to Nickel Mine and picked up there.

DISCUSSION

- Yapp Farm – Discussion included information that the town is buying the land with CPA funds. This was voted on at the last town meeting, and the transaction should be finalized in the next two weeks. It was noted that snowmobiles use that parcel all winter. Karen has pictures and will forward them to the committee.
- Beaver Brook – Dave noted that the CPC funds were approved at the June Town Meeting. There was some question about whether or not our making trails is allowed under CPC. We will put a discussion about what we can do on CPC land on the next Open Space Agenda.
- Boule Park – Bill stated that Colleen Garry asked him to make a request to the Open Space Committee to see if we would be interested in creating an area to launch canoes and kayaks at this parcel, much like the one we created at Long Pond. There was some discussion about whether or not we should take part in this. We will have a quick site visit so we can see what would be involved in that project.
- Dracut Birthday Walk – We discussed the best place to have a birthday walk on February 27th. The 26th is Dracut's actual birthday. We decided that the new Land Trust parcel and the trail on Broadway has parking and would be a nice winter walk. We will finalize this event at our next meeting.
- Facebook Page – Karen has started a generic page which will not be open to postings. Karen will send out a basic option and we will review it and vote on it at the next meeting.
- Emile asked Bruce if he could bring some Open Space Trail Guide brochures to the Town Hall. Bruce said he did.
- Bill reported that he attended the 'Chelmsford Day Before Thanksgiving' event at the Thanksgiving Forest. He noted that they had a fire and served hot chocolate and cookies. He estimated that there were a couple of hundred people there.

NEW BUSINESS

- Karen raised the idea that perhaps the Vision Committee should have a representative from Open Space. She noted that they will be looking for us to do some of the work. Bruce agrees to double check about one of us joining.
- Emile asked if there is any indication about money raised by Glen Edward's retirement party. Bruce agreed to follow up.
- Bruce reported on a small grant program to support Open Space efforts to engage the public in land stewardship and conservation, called the Estate Planning Grants for Open Space Committees. Bruce will complete the application and we will review it in January. We discussed this grant last year, but we hadn't heard about it in time to apply.
- Bruce also provided information from the Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy and Land's Sake.
- We decided to plan events for 2016 at our January meeting.

ADJOURN

Bruce moved to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Bill and passed unanimously.

SCHEDULED MEETING DATES:

All scheduled meetings will begin at 6:30 in the Dracut Town Hall

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Thursday, April 14, 2016

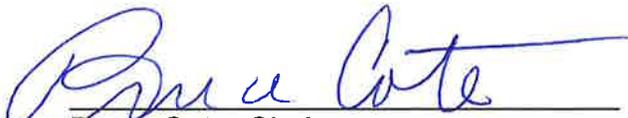
Thursday, May 12, 2016

Thursday, June 9, 2016

THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Signature Page

December 10, 2015



Bruce Cote, Chairperson



Colleen Barclay



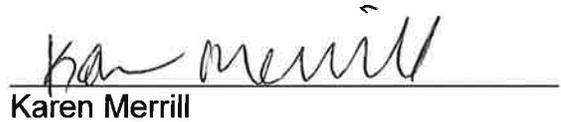
Marianne Blanchet



Emile Demers



Bill Greenwood



Karen Merrill



Dave Sutherland
