

Minutes
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
January 9, 2014

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

--Chairperson Bruce opened our first meeting of 2014 at 6:30 at the meeting room of the Dracut Historic Society. He welcomed our two liaisons to the Board of Selectmen, Tony Archinski and John Zimini.

--Bruce announced that the 2013 Annual Report is due to be submitted to the Town Clerk by February 14, 2014, and he agreed to email a draft to the committee which we will review at our next meeting.

--Bruce also announced that he plans to attend the Annual Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference which is March 22nd. The theme will be "*Healthy Land – Healthy Communities.*" Tony offered to check with finance regarding reimbursement for attending this event, and the process of applying for reimbursement of allocated Community Preservation Committee funds.

--Dave presented an article from the *Boston Globe* highlighting a potential issue for Massachusetts Land Trusts. It reported that a town in western Massachusetts is attempting to tax a land trust's holdings and, if successful, could have an impact on conservation throughout the state.

--John informed us that a large property on Avis Road may become available. If it becomes available, the town could purchase it as an addition to the town's open space.

--Bill has been asked to join the Dracut Land Trust.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments at tonight's meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

--The committee reviewed the minutes of November 14, 2013. Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Bill seconded that motion and it passed unanimously.

--The committee also reviewed the December 12, 2014 minutes. Emile made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed with 6 positive votes and 1 abstention. Bruce will hand deliver these minutes to the town clerk and to be posted to the Open Space web page.

2014 GOALS AND ACTIVITIES:

The committee presented the 2014 Open Space Goals as discussed at previous meetings to the Selectmen liaisons. Our top four goals are:

- Long Pond Area
Possible plans include building a boat ramp, marking trails and resolving boundary issues. Discussion included creation of a small boat launch area with parking, and a small picnic area. Bill will contact the Engineering Department about developing a workable plan, surveying, and marking for this area. Bruce will work with the Assistant Town Manager about the on-going boundary dispute.
- Proprietors' Way
Tony and Jim agree to bring our plans to clear and mark this historic way to the full Board and to discuss the initial clearing with the DPW as a winter project. The plan is to complete the trail from Old Marsh Hill Road, through the golf course and connect to the Richardson Preserve. It is hoped that work on this trail will be able to begin in the near future. Bill agreed to contact the water department about potential access to the trail through land owned by the Water District on Betty Ann Lane. Karen will ask Dracut Cable about making 'before and after' segments to be shown on Dracut Public Access Television and to be posted on our web site.
- Informational Forums
We discussed resuming the forums that we have been unable to provide recently, primarily due to the lack of funding. The approval of CPC funds provides us with the opportunity to present a wider range of speakers.
- Property Markers and Signs
We hope to provide additional signage on trails and properties to manage boundary problems and to increase accessibility and use. Bill advised us that the DPW has sign making machinery and that they have always been helpful to our committee.

Following our positive discussion about these goals with the Selectmen liaisons, the committee is encouraged by their support and we agreed to keep them apprised of our activities. We agreed to make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen at one of their upcoming meetings and we will welcome them to attend our meetings when possible.

SCHEDULE

Upcoming meetings for the Open Space Committee are scheduled for:

February 13th
March 13th

ADJOURNMENT

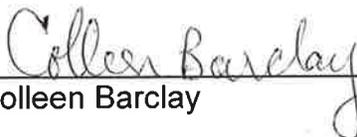
Dave made a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:00PM. Bruce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

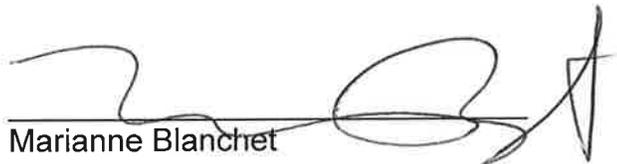
THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Signature Page

February 13, 2014^{25.}
JANUARY 9, 2014


Bruce Cote, Chairperson

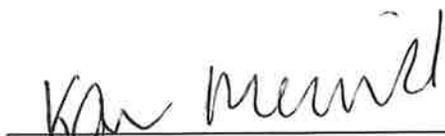

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