

**MINUTES**  
***Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting***  
**January 14, 2016**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Members: Colleen Barclay, Marianne Blanchet, Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, Bill Greenwood, Karen Merrill, Dave Sutherland and Selectperson Tony Archinski.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 6:40PM, the committee chair opened the January Open Space Committee meeting in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Dracut Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bruce announced that he was invited, and has accepted, a spot on the Land Trust. He joins OS member, Bill Greenwood on that board.

**DECEMBER MINUTES**

The committee reviewed the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Dave moved to accept as amended and Bill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Trail Videotaping**

Karen asked that we set a new date to video tape the McNamara Way trail since our planned site visit was cancelled due to severe weather. Bill suggested that we wait until spring so the handicapped aspects of the trail, which is a significant attraction, could be highlighted. The committee agreed. Dave suggested that the Nickle Mine Conservation parcel would be a good winter weather video. Karen noted that we need to have the history of the parcel available for the video. Bruce agrees to research that land and then we will set a date for filming.

**SITE WORK**

**Proprietors Way**

Tony reported that Mike Blatus has been working with him, and assisting him with his interactions with Jim Zygouris. Mike had a medical set-back which delayed their meetings, but he has recently spoken to him. It is not clear that Mr. Zygouris understands what our goals are. Mike has also spoken to the son. Tony suggested that we invite his son to our next meeting. We should have more information by that meeting. As a 'plan B,' Bill suggests that we talk to Peggy Ogonowski.

**McNamara Way**

Bill reported that he went to McNamara Way as promised. He said that he dug down and sawed off the top of the pipe that was sticking out of the ground and he filled it back in so it's not showing. He also removed the spare tire that was left there.

**DISCUSSION**

Boule Park – Dave reported that he went to the site and found that there is a 15 ft. embankment right now although that may change with the rise and fall of the water level. He noted that putting a drop in for canoes and kayaks, as requested, would require engineering and heavy equipment to provide safe access. This would also require funds.

Tony reported that he is on the Boule Committee and that they are still at the very beginnings of their plans, but their funding work has been successful so far. The first phase of their plan is to create the basic park, including a Black Hawk helicopter carved out of granite. Our contribution wouldn't be needed until at least the second phase.

Bill will report back to Colleen Garry, who asked him about the ramp, that we feel it is more complicated than we are able to handle at this time without funding or tools, but we remain interested in contributing to this project.

Dracut Birthday Walk – We discussed the birthday walk which is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> at 10AM at Tranquility Trail at the Ogonowski Memorial Field. If there is snow it is recommended that boots or snowshoes are worn, but cross country skis would not be functional. Bruce agreed to contact Anna Corey about having coffee and hot chocolate made available at the DPW building. Karen will take care of all the publicity for the event including asking Bob and Gay about filming it. Bill will look into parking options and will contact the boy scout who worked on the trail.

Facebook Page – Karen put pictures, a video of our bird watching event, and dates of our meetings on the page. She will be the only administrator, as suggested by our Town Manager. We discussed the ability to “like” and “share.” She reported that the only input available from the public would be through private messages that go to her alone and are not public. Dave made a motion to accept that we maintain a FB page as set up by Karen. Karen seconded the motion, and it passed 7 to 1 with Bill voting against.

2016 Activities and Goals – The committee brainstormed our goals and priorities for the upcoming year. We decided that we should name our top three priorities for 2016. We agreed that our top priority will be to continue work on Proprietors’ Way. Our second priority will be the Yapp Farm. We decided that we should have a site visit there on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. Our third priority will be to continue to working with Bob & Gay to complete more videotaping of our trails. Additionally, we will continue to have events such as the Dracut Birthday Walk and Spring Birding Event. We will also work on keeping our website current. We decided not to update our flier yet as there are changes coming up.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- We have a copy of the 2015 Open Space Annual Report. Bruce will add information about how often we met. The update of this report is due on February 15<sup>th</sup> so we will review it further at our February meeting.
- We discussed the Yapp Farm, for which there is a grant from The Farm Bureau of Agricultural Preservation. We discussed funding, including where the proceeds of the farm stand, haying, etc. will go to. He noted that the CPC is meeting Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the town hall. Bruce will verify this information.
- Marianne expressed that she does not feel that the minutes of our meetings should be made public prior to approval by the full committee. This month a request was made to Bruce and he was told that he had to make that information available upon request. He forwarded the unaccepted December minutes to town hall. Marianne noted that most committees do not email the draft minutes to the rest of the committee so they wouldn’t be available to the chair to forward on.
- Bruce asked if documents that were not approved, such as our failed Open Space Charter, needs to be kept for our records. We agreed to keep them in our records since they are noted in our minutes.

#### **ADJOURN**

Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM, and Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **SCHEDULED MEETING DATES:**

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

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Thursday, June 9, 2016