

MINUTES
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
February 12, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee members Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, Bill Greenwood, Karen Merrill and Dave Sutherland, Selectman Tony Archinski, and Graphic Arts Director from the Greater Lowell Technical High School, Rene "Butch" Dion.

CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce opened the meeting of the Dracut Open Space Committee at 6:30PM in the Dracut Town Hall.

OSC TRAIL GUIDE:

Mr. Dion was on hand to provide updates to the redesign of the OSC brochure being done by students at the Greater Lowell Technical High School. Progress was a bit limited due to the multitude of snow days, but Mr. Dion was able to present some significant work.

1 – Six students (2 Dracut students and 4 Lowell students) designed 6 different Open Space Committee logos for the committee to consider. These were well received and the committee will vote on a logo (with modifications if desired) and present that to Mr. Dion by Monday, February 23.

2 – Photos, write-ups, and maps have been uploaded to the Open Drive share area created by Mr. Dion that students can address.

3 – Pricing and paper were discussed and although Mr. Dion did not have the precise information for the meeting committed to sending it by e-mail by Friday 2/13.

4 – Paper samples were discussed and Mr. Dion committed to delivering samples to Bruce Cote by Friday 2/13.

Other brochure redesign work includes:

- An updated open space map that includes Proprietors' Way and the Dracut Land Trust property. Bill Greenwood will check with the town Engineering Dept. to see if we can get a map without housing parcels listed for a cleaner presentation.
- Action for the committee to review all parcel descriptions with respect to parking locations, trail access and approximate hiking distances.
- Decision by the committee to include the Dracut Land Trust Parcel in the brochure since the purpose of the document is to highlight all of Dracut's publicly accessible open spaces.
- Review and accept January meeting minutes
- Review and accept January special meeting, meeting minutes

Review and accept 2014 yearly report:

The final version of the report was reviewed, some minor spelling corrections were addressed and the OSC web address added. The committee approved of the report for submitting to the Town Clerk on the requested date of February 13.

February 28 OSC / Dracut birthday event planning:

Karen Merrill previewed the event by walking through the area, and we estimate the total distance would be about 2 miles. The event has been posted on FB, Karen has sent e-mail invitations, and she sent it to the Lowell Sun event newsletter.

The event to celebrate Dracut's birthday will take place on Saturday, February 28 at the East Richardson Preserve starting at 10AM. Access point will be the main gate on East Richardson Road.

Site visits / activities, plan clean up dates as necessary:

- Proprietors' Way – See additional information below
- Kensington – No updates
- Nickel Mine – No updates
- Rifle Range / Cross Road – No updates
- East Richardson Preserve – Karen visited the parcel on Feb 3rd and noted the prevalence of dog feces along the main access road by the gate. This section of the trail had been cleared and we surmised abutters were allowing their dogs to use this area w/o cleaning up after them.

Community Preservation Committee Meeting review:

Karen Merrill attended a CPC meeting and talked with Helen Dunlap regarding getting a list of people who may have attended previous information forums. The OSC hopes to use such a list for any information events the committee may host.

Karen reported the CPC is actively pursuing several potential community preservation sites. Among these are the Avis Ave parcel, lands on Colburn Ave, (adjacent to PJ Keating), Mammoth Road, and Wheeler Road.

Karen offered OSC help to the CPC if needed.

Proprietors' Way review:

Bill Greenwood spoke with several people at the Town Hall and reported new findings regarding Proprietors' Way. New information indicates that this thin parcel of land is not owned by any landowner, is not being taxed, and could be considered property of the Town. It was noted that a short section was owned by Zygouris, and we would need to seek access through that land or potentially walk around via another property in order to complete the trail from the golf course through to Old Marsh Hill Road.

The committee noted this new information is in conflict with previous information received by the committee so we will gather both sets of data and deliver to Tony Archinski. Tony will seek final resolution on the ownership.

New Business:

Karen Merrill reported she has requested time at a Finance Committee meeting to discuss an open meeting violation notice filed against the Fin-Com. She will notify the committee when scheduled.

Meeting Schedule:

- Thursday, March 12, 2015 – Dracut Town Hall, 6:30 PM
- Thursday, April 9, 2015 – Dracut Town Hall, 6:30 PM
- Thursday, May 14, 2015 – Dracut Town Hall, 6:30 PM
- Thursday, June 11, 2015 – Dracut Town Hall, 6:30 PM

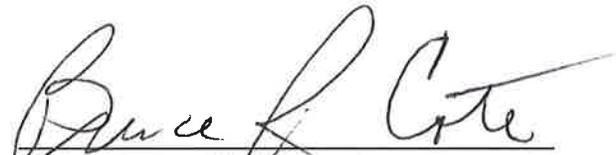
Adjournment:

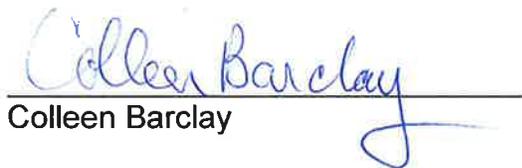
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 8:10 PM and passed unanimously.

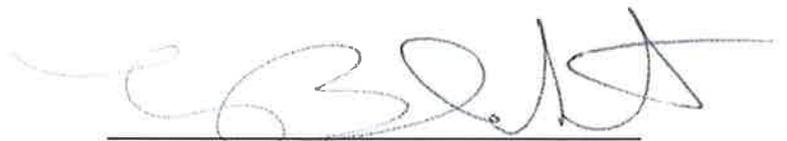
**THE DRACUT
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Signature Page

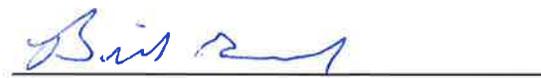
February 12, 2015


Bruce Cote, Chairperson


Colleen Barclay


Marianne Blanchet


Emile Demers


Bill Greenwood


Karen Merrill


Dave Sutherland