

Minutes
Dracut Open Space
Committee Meeting
September 18, 2014

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
14-OCT-6 AM 9:51
KATHLEEN M. GRAHAM
TOWN CLERK
DRACUT, MA

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Bruce opened this month's meeting of the Dracut Open Space Committee at 6:40PM in the Dracut Historic Society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bruce welcomed the committee back after a long summer break.
- Bruce reports that he received a letter from Assistant Town Manager, Glen Edwards, providing information about a free conference sponsored by the MA Audobon Society. It is titled *Conservation Subdivisions in Action*. It will be held on Wednesday, October 29th from 10A-3P. Bruce has already called to register.
- Bruce also notes that he heard from Tami stating that she would not be able to attend tonight and he also heard from Tony who is ill.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No community members were present at this meeting.

REVIEW OF June 19th MINUTES:

The committee reviewed the minutes of June 19, 2014. Emile moved to accept as amended and Bill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Status and Activity of Proprietors' Way Project

Bill reported that neighbors put branches down to block access and continue to use it to dispose of their grass clippings. He talked to Mike Buxton about clearing the parcel, but they may not be able to work on it right away. Our committee agreed to defer work on this parcel in order to focus on other sites.

Update on Conservation Commission's Activity on the Long Pond Parcel

There is no update to the commission's activity on this parcel. Bruce reports that the Conservation Commission minutes are not available on their site. He will continue to try to obtain their most recent minutes and an update of their actions. Bruce will also try to get on the agenda of an upcoming commission meeting to discuss this issue.

Public Forum Speaker Review, Rick Reault Presentation Planning

Karen reports that Rick Reault has been unresponsive, but she will continue to try to contact him. Bruce suggests that someone from the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust (LPCT) may be able to make some suggestions. He will make contact with them.

Gas Pipeline Extension News

It appears that public opinion is negative and that even the Governor has come out against it.

SITE VISITS:

Reports on any activity at Open Space sites

- Richardson Preserve - Karen and Colleen will work together on preparing a report about this site.
- Long Pond - Emile reports that Long Pond is really overgrown and needs extensive clearing. It does not appear to be well used. There was much debris including a well-wrapped mattress. Discussion ensued about purchase vs. rental of equipment using the approved funds from the Community Preservation Committee. Karen will talk to Helen about how to get this purchase through the town. Emile also reported that the neighbor, Dick Thomas, appears to have increased the encroachment on town property. Karen suggests that we approach the new town manager, and that we get on the agenda at the next Selectmen's meeting.
- McNamara Way – Marianne reports that this parcel is relatively clear and had very little debris.
- Nickle Mine – Bruce reports that the trash problem has not worsened. There are a couple of large items to be removed and Bill will check with Mike Buxton about clearing the trash. If that cannot occur we will considered organizing a clean up day.

NEW BUSINESS:

Long Term Projects

Bruce reports that the next long term project is the site signage projects. The Open Space Committee would like to place boundary signs at all of the sites maintained by our committee. We hope these signs will help identify municipal property, control invasive use, promote recreational use, and assist in site maintenance. We plan to work on this project over the next several months.

Status of Dracut Land Trust trail

--Bill reports that there will be a dedication on October 4th at 1PM at the Ogonowski property on Smith Road across from MacIntosh, where Edie's Orchard once was. It was owned by a woman in her 90's who sold it to the Dracut Land Trust. The committee agrees to assist with the trail work at the Dracut Land Trust parcel on Rte. 113 near the Lily Mack Farm.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

The committee agreed that our next meetings will be held on:

October 9, 2014

November 13, 2014 and

December 11, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

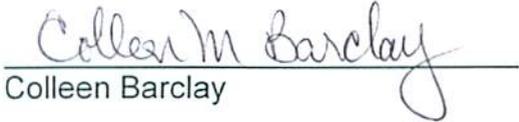
Karen made a motion to adjourn the Open Space meeting of September 18th at 7:55PM.
Bill seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

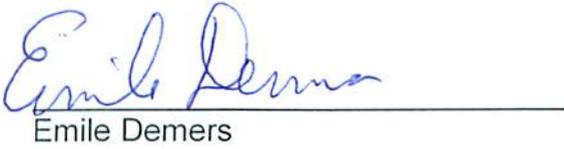
Signature Page

October 9, 2014

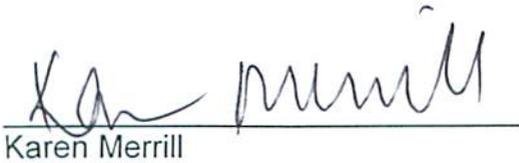

Bruce Cote, Chairperson


Colleen Barclay


Marianne Blanchet


Emile Demers


Bill Greenwood


Karen Merrill


Dave Sutherland