

Minutes
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
May 8, 2014

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce opened the May meeting of the Dracut Open Space Committee at 6:30PM in the Meeting Room of the Dracut Historic Society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bill announced that he is now officially a member of the Dracut Land Trust. Committee members expressed that they were happy to see Bill take on this new venture and wish him best of luck.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No community members were present at this meeting.

REVIEW OF APRIL 10th MINUTES:

The committee reviewed the minutes of April 10, 2014. Karen made a motion to accept these minutes as amended. Colleen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Status and Activity of Proprietors' Way Project

Bill reports that he and Dave met with the three commissioners from the Dracut Water Supply District and walked a portion of the trail. They had no problem with the committee putting a sign at the head of the trail and they agreed to put some signage on their property. They also informed committee members that a local builder (Gerry Lussier of Draco Homes) owns the property on the opposite side of Proprietors' Way.

Bill also reports that he attempted to speak to Mike Buxton who is unavailable, and he will plan to talk to him next week. Bill will do a walk-through with Mike.

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

At Emile's suggestion, Bruce spoke to the Lori Cahill, of the Conservation Commission about the Long Pond parcel. He learned that they were unable to locate the information that he had previously provided to them. He was also told that we had their support to work on the parcel, but he reminded them that the parcel belongs to them and that they have a responsibility to protect it. Bruce encouraged them to discuss this with their lawyer and learn their options. Bruce agrees to resend the material and will follow up next week.

Develop List of Potential Topics/Speakers for Public Forums

Bruce reminds the committee that we had discussed Mark Fraser at the last meeting. Mark has spoken for the group twice before and that we should look for newer topics and speakers.

Emile researched a speaker, Stewart Saganow, from the BioMap program and learned that he no longer makes these presentations. Stewart suggested Russ Cohen (russ.cohen@state.ma.us) who wrote a book on edible plants and mushrooms. Emile will look into and find out if he is interested, what his fees are and when he is available.

Karen knows of an expert about bees and pesticides, Rick Reault, who lives in Tyngsboro. She will find out about his availability and Bruce will research speakers from the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust.

SITE VISITS:

Reports on any Activity at Open Space Sites

There are no reports provided at this meeting.

Bruce suggests that we create a program where each member of the committee “adopts-a-site” and takes responsibility for occasional reports to the full committee re: events or issues with that site. Since Dave was not at the meeting tonight, we each took a parcel with the understanding that when the full committee meets, some changes may take place. The current plan is:

East Richardson (Upper Section)	Karen
East Richardson (Lower section)	Colleen
Kensington	Marianne
Long Pond	Emile
Nickel Mine	Bruce
Rifle Range/Cross Road	
Proprietor’s Way	Bill

We agree that monthly visits are not required. We also agree to walk-through whenever we can and note any reportable issues, so we can discuss them at the next meeting. It was suggested that, if reasonable, each committee member let the others know of a planned visit, so we can continue to visit sites together when possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

At Bill’s suggestion, we discussed participating in creating trails with the Dracut Land Trust. They are currently planning on a trail at Ogonowski’s Field, near the golf course. Committee members agreed that this was a good idea.

There was some discussion about whether the committee is willing to take a position on the proposed pipeline expansion and make recommendations to the Selectmen. No decisions were made.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

The committee decided on the dates of our upcoming meetings of the Dracut Open Space Committee. Bruce will reserve the space and notify town hall. We agreed that we will take the month of July off. The meetings will be on:

June 12, 2014
August 14, 2014
September 18, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Karen moved to adjourn the May 2014 Open Space meeting at 7:30PM, which Colleen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

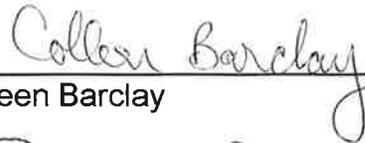
THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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June 12, 2014



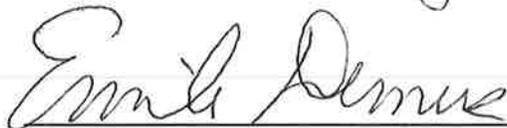
Bruce Cote, Chairperson



Colleen Barclay



Marianne Blanchet



Emile Demers



Bill Greenwood



Karen Merrill



Dave Sutherland