

Minutes
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
November 14, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE:

Colleen Barclay, Marianne Blanchet, Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, Bill Greenwood, John Hire, Karen Merrill, and Dave Sutherland at 6:30 PM in the Dracut Historical Society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tonight was the first meeting with Bruce as our new chairperson. He announced that he spoke to Samantha Carver and had the Open Space Committee website updated to reflect the current committee status.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

In an effort to expedite the delivery of minutes to the Selectmen we agreed that the minutes would be reviewed on-line prior to the next meeting and changes would be made appropriately. The minutes will be finalized and approved at the next meeting, and unless further changes are needed, Bruce will deliver the signed minutes to town hall for posting on our page. Dave made a motion to accept the September 12, 2013 minutes. Emile seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Long Pond Encroachment Issue

-- We reviewed the email from Glen Edwards will table any discussion of this issue until the January meeting.

Site Visits

-- **Proprietor's Way**. The committee met at this site on the morning of October 27th. We walked the full length of the trail, much of which was very overgrown. We agreed tonight that clean up of that parcel would be more than boy scouts could handle and more than we could budget for. Karen will consider meeting with the Selectmen to ask for assistance with resources for this Project and to present the historic value and the opportunity to prevent further issues such as encroachment. The question was raised about the extent of the responsibility held by the golf course owners and we believe it is their responsibility to provide signage and trail markers. Bruce will contact Tony and John to invite them to our January meeting.

It was also noted that we should check the easement along the Zigouras property.

-- **Preserve**. Dave noted that there are grass cuttings being dumped on this site and that there are a few trees that need to be trimmed. It was suggested that the next time someone is able to go there they take along trash bags to pick up cans and a saw for trimming.

-- We planned our next site visit for November 24th at Nickle Mine at 8:30AM.

Maintenance Plan Update

-- **Proprietor's Way** is not on our plan. Bruce agreed to add it.

Ten Acre List

-- Karen states that she will work on it again after the holiday season. She suggests that anybody else who has an opportunity to look at it should try to work on it.

CPC Funds

- Bill talked to the Fire Department Chief who report that there is no space at any fire station to store equipment. Bill agreed to speak to Mike Buxton about town garages, etc.
- Emile spoke to the town manager about the process for purchasing town equipment. Dennis had several concerns and questions about storage, theft and liability. He suggested that we hire someone to take on more complex projects. The committee discussed the feasibility of the town manager's concerns and suggestions and expressed concerns about the liability of committee members and volunteers doing that work.
- The committee reviewed the parts of town meeting that are relevant to our committee. This discussion included zoning changes and development of a town center which would attract smaller "mom and pop" businesses.

NEW BUSINESS:

2014 Brainstorming Session

- All members took the time to review their original motivation for joining the committee and what they thought they could bring or get out of the experience. We discussed what our priorities for the upcoming year should be. We talked about keeping town land open for future generations, creating and maintaining trails, preservation, education, creating a volunteer group based on The Andover Trails Committee group (<http://www.avisandover.org/>), and just enjoying our trails.
- Karen suggested that we have something on our web site where people can volunteer, send emails, news and opinions.

SCHEDULE

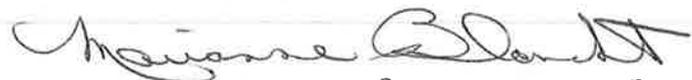
Our upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

December 12th

January 9th

ADJOURNMENT

Colleen moved to adjourn tonight's meeting at 7:59PM. Emile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.


OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE SECRETARY