

Open Space Committee
Minutes
Thursday, December 12, 2013
Harmony Hall, 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Attending: Dave Sutherland, Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, John Hire, Karen Merrill, Bill Greenwood.

Call to Order: Bruce called meeting to order at 6:34.

Review and accept November's meeting minutes: Marianne was not present at this meeting so we did not have the previous month's minutes to review. We will review minutes for November and December at January's meeting.

Site Visits

Members of the committee visited the Nickel Mine site on November 24th. We noticed the relative lack of trash compared to a previous visit. We noted there appeared to be increased ATV activity near the boundary with the sand pit.

Dave Sutherland and Bill Greenwood visited the Richardson Preserve separately and some downed trees were noted and cleared.

We discussed boundary markings to the Nickel Mine in particular and the OSC sites in general. We noted that many times during visits we ask about our position in the property and it would be beneficial for us and the public to have some markings to help delineate private from public space.

Maintenance Plan Review: Bruce updated the maintenance spreadsheet to include Proprietor's Way, but the additional lines did not print. Bruce will correct and resend document.

Tool purchase and storage: The town meeting article that authorized CPC funds to the OSC states:

"To approve the allocation of Committee Preservation Funds not to exceed \$5000.00 to the Open Space Committee for the purpose of hiking trail development and or the construction of canoe or kayak launch areas on existing town owned parcels. Such trails and launch areas being intended to improve recreational access to benefit the residents of Dracut. Funds to be used for, but not limited to, the acquisition of needed materials, tools and equipment".

Bill Greenwood spoke to Mr. Buxton who offered some storage space in the old fire station on Pleasant St.

John Hire suggested that we adopt a policy of renting needed power equipment in lieu of purchase to mitigate storage and potential liability issues.

Continue 2014 planning – brainstorming session:

Bruce presented a list of ideas for 2014 and we discussed the list at length, adding, deleting and suggesting some top goals. We have invited the committee's selectmen advisors to the January meeting where we will review the top 5 goals, discuss any ideas the selectmen may have for the committee, plan a presentation to the entire Board of Selectman, and develop a timeline for action.

Top 4 goals are:

- Develop the Long Pond Area. Boat ramp, mark trails, resolve boundary issues
- Clear and mark Proprietor's Way
- Host information forums
- Boundary markers and signs on OSC properties

Meeting Schedule:

January monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9. Both the selectmen advisors to the committee are invited.

Meetings for February and March are set:

February 13, 2014

March 13, 2014

Adjourn: Bruce motion to adjourn the meeting to order at 7:55 and was seconded by Emile Demers.

Bruce R. Gte
1/10/2014