

**MINUTES**  
***Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting***  
**March 10, 2016**

**ATTENDING:**

Colleen Barclay, Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, Bill Greenwood, Karen Merrill, and Dave Sutherland.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The committee chair opened the March meeting in the Town Manager's conference room at 6:30 PM.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bruce announced he has a meeting with the Town Manager on Friday, March 11 to meet with a potential OSC member. The Committee suggested Bruce add these items as topics for this meeting: The OSC Facebook page, East Richardson Preserve use for private event, Yapp Farm, upcoming bird event, and money for tools.

Dave walked in the East Richardson Preserve and noted there are several safety hazards that should be addressed before the next scheduled event there.

Although McNamara Way had been cleaned previously it was full of trash again and needs cleaning.

**FEBRUARY MINUTES**

The review of the February 2016 meeting minutes was postponed to the April meeting

**ACTIVITIES**

**Birthday Walk:** The committee conducted a review of the Dracut Birthday event in February at Tranquility Field. The event was well attended and well received. We had about 35 visitors, committee members, and town dignitaries. People were engaged in the activity, were slow to leave, and were interested in learning more about the OSC.

We discussed what was learned, how to improve / modify for future events.

Karen suggested we should have a discussion pre-event to understand and manage the event. For example, at this event people tended to move through the trail quickly, we could have slowed the group or split them up into fast and slow teams.

Bruce suggested that for each event we have one person designated as coordinator.

We should try to gather some information from attendees on how they heard about an event and provide feedback.

Bill suggested the Committee send a thank you note to the Dracut Water Supply. Bruce took the action to do this.

**Trail videotaping:** Karen will ask Bob and Gay for some availability dates for taping.

**Proprietors' Way clearing and trail update:** Bill talked with Warren Shaw who knows Mr. Zygouris and who could be an intermediary. Bill forwarded the introductory letter to Warren.

East Richardson Preserve: Separate walks through this site provided reports of broken benches, missing trail markers, trail markers in disrepair, trees that need to be cleared, and increased incidence of dog feces.

Bill will work with Mr. Buxton at the DPW to post feces clean up signs similar to those posted at Veteran's Park.

Dave will investigate procuring round trail markers. These could be generic trail markers useful on all trails.

The Committee needs to investigate trail signs.

Bird watching: Karen asked about the need to plan for a rain date for this, Bruce took the action to follow up with Mike Baird.

## **DISCUSSION**

Follow up on the use of East Richardson Preserve for private event. Bruce to follow up with Town Manager.

Facebook Page - Our FB page is doing well. Karen is collecting demographics.

Fund allocation – According to the Treasurer, there are no use restrictions on donations to the OSC. The town would require that a Purchase Order be issued prior to expending in order to make the determination that it is an eligible open space expense

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Discuss potential Eagle Scout projects: Bill Greenwood will invite Pete Mancuso to the next meeting to review potential projects. We will also propose continued maintenance and monitoring as Boy Scout community service projects.

Discuss potential educational projects. I.E. Tree identification: Karen talked to Helen Dunlap about a tree identification walk. Helen indicated she would do that as an outreach event. We could use the Dunlap site or some other site.

Earth day: Bruce noted the Dracut Garden Club is not handing out large yellow trash bags for Earth day celebrations as done at previous Earth Day celebrations. He noted this may be something the OSC could do and will talk with Mr. Buxton about this.

Earth day is April 22.

Dracut Land Trust: Bruce was approached by a member of the Dracut Land Trust (DLT) to investigate ways of working together. The Committee agreed this is a good idea and will put this on the May meeting agenda.

Bruce will reach out to the DLT to confirm.

Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference: Bruce mentioned the upcoming Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference on April 2. Bill made a motion to allow use of OSC funds to pay conference reservation costs for any OSC attendee. Colleen seconded and passed unanimously.

## **ADJOURN**

Colleen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM, Karen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

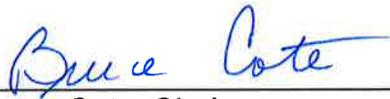
**SCHEDULED MEETING DATES:**

- Thursday April 14, 2016 – Dracut Town Hall, 6:30 PM
- Thursday May 12, 2016 – Dracut Town Hall, 6:30 PM
- Thursday June 9, 2016 – Dracut Town Hall, 6:30 PM

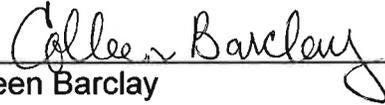
# THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

*Signature Page*

March 10, 2016



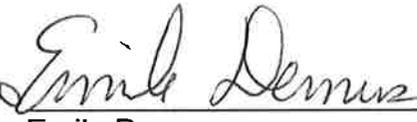
Bruce Cote, Chairperson



Colleen Barclay



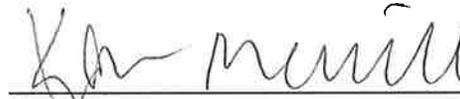
Marianne Blanchet



Emile Demers



Bill Greenwood



Karen Merrill



Dave Sutherland