

MINUTES
Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting
May 12, 2016

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee members attending the May meeting were Marianne Blanchet, Donna Corbin, Bruce Cote, Bill Greenwood, Karen Merrill, and Dave Sutherland. Also in attendance was Tony Archinski, Open Space liaison to the Board of Selectmen.

CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce, chairperson of the committee, opened this month's meeting at 6:35PM in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Dracut Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill reported that he was appointed president of the Dracut Land Trust and that Bruce was appointed vice president.

Tony reported that newly appointed Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen, Alison Hughes, has decided that only one liaison to our committee is needed and she re-appointed Tony to that position.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Bruce called for nominations for the office of chairperson and secretary. Karen made a motion to nominate Bruce as chairperson. Dave seconded that motion and the vote was unanimous. Bill moved to nominate Marianne as secretary and Dave seconded. The vote was unanimous.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

After review of the April minutes, Dave moved to accept as amended. Bill seconded and the vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Videotaping – Karen reported that Bob and Gay are unable to tape our tree identification event on the 21st of May. They did provide dates that they are available to tape a hike of the Nickel Mine parcel. The committee reviewed those dates and chose Monday, June 20th at 5:30.

Proprietors' Way – The committee reviewed maps and discussed the Brentwood access to this path. Tony will ask Mike Buxton to clear the end of the parcel off Old Marsh Hill Road. Mike will retire soon and it would be best to have this done before he leaves because he knows what we need.

Funds – We have the \$1000 available to us from the town manager's budget, and we have until the end of June to allocate that money. We also have \$505 available to us from a donation presented to us on behalf of former assistant town manager, Glen Edwards. Dave made a motion to get firm quotes on a brush cutter, and appropriate safety equipment for use with the cutter with a limit of \$1000. If there is money left over, we will get a quote on a trimmer and the safety gear we will need with that.

Yapp Farm – Bruce reported that we have approval to start development at the Yapp Farm, but we are going to postpone that work at this time to complete other activities.

Tree Identification Event – Karen reported that she received a message from Helen reminding us to spread the word that it will be important to wear boots, and use bug spray-even on clothes and shoes, and that there may also be opportunities to bird watch or encounter other wildlife at this event. Karen also reported that Shawn Ashe has invited her to discuss this event on his Saturday morning radio show. He also invited Bruce who will either try to make it or he will call in.

Boy Scout projects – Saturday, May 14th is Boy Scout Project Day and we will have scouts at two of our parcels, Nickel Mine and McNamara Way.

Bill also reported that Charlie Ritchie's Eagle Scout ceremony is that day. He and Tony plan to attend.

Trail Markers – Dave investigated local options for purchasing trail markers, including Michael's and Home Depot. He was unable to find markers locally and learned that the best prices are on-line anyway, including shipping. Karen makes a motion to authorize a purchase of the items needed to create markers, not to exceed \$125. Donna seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Trail Mapping – Karen noted that she attempted to identify the procedure to use the Google mapping option and she tried to add Cart Path . We checked on-line and discovered that it was not added. Karen agrees to continue to work on this.

NEW BUSINESS

New Dracut Website – We reviewed the new Dracut website and the Open Space page. We saw that the page is updated with our new member's name, our tree identification event for next weekend, and they added a link to our Facebook page.

Fox Ten Acres – Karen informed us that this parcel may be sold to the golf course to build homes similar to the ones already there.

ADJOURN

--Bruce summarized the meeting and noted action items.

--We agreed to schedule the upcoming meetings for the rest of the year at the June meeting.

--Dave moved to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:15PM. The motion was seconded by Karen and passed unanimously.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. All scheduled meetings will begin at 6:30PM in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Dracut Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

The next meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, June 9, 2016

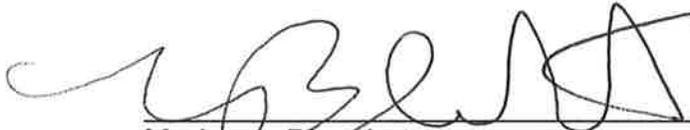
THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Signature Page

May 12, 2016


Bruce Cote, Chairperson


Colleen Barclay


Marianne Blanchet


Donna Corbin


Emile Demers

Bill Greenwood


Karen Merrill


Dave Sutherland