

**MINUTES**  
***Dracut Open Space Committee Meeting***  
**October 20, 2016**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

The October meeting was attended by committee members Marianne Blanchet, Donna Corbin, Bruce Cote, Emile Demers, Bill Greenwood, Karen Merrill, and Dave Sutherland.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Tonight's meeting was planned as a committee meeting from 6:30 to 7:00, and we were to be joined by The Dracut Land Trust to discuss some partnership planning at 7:00. Due to a problem with the room, we moved the October meeting of the Open Space Committee to the Town Hall Conference Room. The meeting was opened by Chairperson, Bruce at 6:45.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

--Bruce announced that he is looking for a volunteer to chair the November meeting, including arranging the agenda since he will not be able to be at that meeting.

--Bruce also announced that Selectperson Tony Archinski contacted him and informed him that he was unable to make the meeting, but wants to pass on that he has not been able to contact Mr. Ogonowski.

--Tony also asked Bruce to pass on that a surveyor is being hired for the Long Pond property.

--Karen reported that she learned at the last Finance Committee meeting that the town charges \$1000 for non-recreational use of town property. She noted that Smithfest, who has used The Preserve for free, is a non-profit.

--Karen also noted that she drove by the Old Marsh Hill end of Proprietors' Way and it looks like there is something being dumped there, but it is relatively clear. Bruce agreed, stating that he has seen dumping as well.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Karen moved to accept the September minutes as amended. Dave seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Review Of September Meeting Action Items**

--Members of the committee commented on how many likes and shares they've passed on, and they encouraged all to do the same.

--Bruce discussed getting the paperwork from Town Hall to pay bills,

--Bruce will send correspondence from Attorney Hall about the Long Pond parcel to Tony.

--Bruce told us that Tony has spoken to the Town Manager who agreed that Bill should talk to Mark Hamel about the Yapp parking area. Bill and Tony will work with Mark Hamel on that.

--Emile noted that the 2"x4" trail markers can be finished. They can be blue and white (Dracut colors) and will have 2 holes. We planned a site visit to mark Richardson at 8:30 on 10/23.

--We discussed the Beaver Brook Farm walk through which was attended by Bill, Bruce and Emile. They report that it was great, but they were limited because they were not allowed in the old buildings like we did at the last site visit, and Bruce expressed that he really enjoyed the buildings last time. They did get down to the bridge. Bill noted that there is Dracut property on the other side of the bridge which would make a nice connection to the schools.

--We deferred the discussion about short term activities to the November meeting.

### DLT/OS Partnership Planning

Joining the Open Space Committee were Dracut Land Trust members; Roberta Hoffman, George Malonis, Lenny Propowski, Guy Steuceck, and Dana Taplin. Cathy Richardson was also in attendance.

--Bruce noted that Lenny has been the driving force to make this this co-meeting happen.

--Lenny stated that this is the first time they've been able to look at what the OS committee does.

--Bruce produced the Open Space Mission Statement which was last reviewed in 2012. DLT Members reported that they don't have a specific mission statement, but they have a DLT Business Plan. Some of the paperwork was authored by the Dracut Land Alliance. Bruce will do some research to find out who they are. Bruce provided our brochure to DLT members.

--Bruce updated the DLT on the Proprietors' Way issues, as well as our committee history such as not having any funding until recently and how we only recently procured some power tools.

--Bill discussed Smith family area and how it can be accessed. He stated that it is leased to the New Entry Farming Program, which offers farm towns access across powerlines because it is more undeveloped.

--We discussed the Richardson Farm triangle at Mammoth Road.

--The DLT members stated that they are thinking about doing a brochure like ours.

--We noted the Beaver Brook parcel and that there is talk of creating Pop Warner fields there. It was also noted that fields come with maintenance requirements.

--Cathy spoke about the twelve students that we send to Essex Agricultural who are partnering for internships about invasives. She told us about a program called "MA Agriculture in the Classroom." and she suggested that this be brought to the School Committee, to be presented to the staff, maybe on a Professional Development Day.

--Guy noted that we should be looking toward long term investments. He noted that vines can be eliminated on personal property by dabbing the live end with Round Up, but it is more difficult on public property. He suggested that we work with school groups, and he recommended that we look into Nature Deficit Disorder, championed by Richard Louv in his book "Last Child in the Woods."

--Guy also offered small Cedar Trees and he noted that the fall is the best time to make that transfer.

--Lenny noted that tools are sometimes available through the Dracut Senior Citizen group. He suggested that we contact Brian Martin or Mary Karabatsos from the Dracut Housing Authority on Mammoth Rd.

--Bruce noted that our biggest challenges are that we are sometimes asked to do things that are out of our scope. We are also vexed by the ATV's at Nickel Mine and the BMX trail at Cross Road.

### ADJOURNMENT

--Donna made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM. Bill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

All scheduled meetings will begin at 6:30PM in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Dracut Town Hall unless otherwise noted. Our upcoming meetings are listed below:

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Thursday, February 9, 2017

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Thursday, April 13, 2017

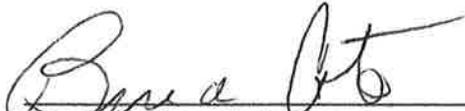
Thursday, May 11, 2017

Thursday, June 8, 2017

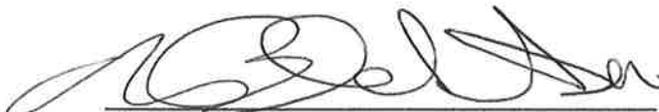
# THE DRACUT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

*Signature Page*

October 20, 2016

  
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Bruce Cote, Chairperson

  
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Colleen Barclay

  
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Marianne Blanchet

  
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Donna Corbin

  
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Emile Demers

  
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Bill Greenwood

  
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Karen Merrill

  
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Dave Sutherland