

February 3, 2014 Hubbardston Open Space committee Minutes

Meeting called to order 7:05pm.

Members present – Jassy Bratko, Joe Cataldo, Charlie Clark, Susan Fox, Pat Taylor, Bob Hatch, Leslie Greiner

October 2013 minutes read by Leslie. Charlie approved minutes, 2nded by Susan. All in favor.

November 2013 minutes read by Leslie. Charlie approved minutes, 2nded by Susan. All in favor.

There was no official meeting December 5, 2013 due to no quorum. Pat read the unofficial notes she had taken at that time.

There was no official meeting January 6, 2014 due to no quorum. The unofficial notes taken by Leslie show that the Baystate Trail Riders Association would like to schedule another horseback ride in the fall.

The committee welcomed Bob Hatch as a new volunteer Open Space Committee member.

Jassy, Joe, and Charlie met with Ben Morse and Ryan Weitz. Ben and Ryan could contribute 40 hours each between now and March to create and monitor the survey.

On the subject of trail maintenance, Bob had looked at the bridges on the trails to assess any surfaces that may be slippery in inclement conditions. He stated that a special paint would not work due to the locations shade and moisture. He will bring samples to show other options, such as a grid with peastone, and pricing. He also stated that he removed downed trees that had fallen across some of the trails. He also volunteered to re-mount the bridge that has shifted on the Mill Pond Trail.

The Open Space Committee volunteers will set up a workday for clearing areas filled with debris and plan to burn the brush in April upon receiving an agricultural permit for burning from the Fire Chief.

The Baystate Trail Riders Association has requested a tentative date for their ride for Oct. 5, 2014.

The Open Space and Recreation survey created by the committee to better address the needs of Hubbardston residents regarding town-wide recreational and other issues will be on the town website as well as paper copies distributed to several accessible sites including the Senior Center, town clerk's office, library, town offices and selectboard offices, Mr. Mike's, Hubbardston Town Market, the Pizza Palace and the post office. The local cable company will also give info on the survey.

Anita, town administrator, entered the meeting at 7:40pm.

Jassy spoke with Liz Newlands of the Mass Audubon who had contacted Anita to do a complimentary survey by the Ecological Extension Service biologist of the birds in the hayfields at the conservation areas. Leslie stated that the obtained info could be added to the issues at hand and taken under advisement. After much discussion, Pat made a motion to authorize Jassy to convey to Liz Newman that after considerable discussion, the Open Space Committee does not feel the upland grasslands birds survey is necessary at this time. Joe 2nded the motion. All in favor. Leslie abstained.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan 2nded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Greiner

Secretary