

## Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023 in the Slade Building Conference Room

### Attending members:

Bob Hatch, Stephanie Frend, Mark Kresge, Todd Livdahl, Tim Hawley

Missing: Susaan Worth, Rick Jones, David Marsh

Guests: Mike Stoll

**Call to order – 7:02 p.m.**

- **Previous Minutes** - The minutes from our September 30, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Assumed treasurer's report was the same as last month – as we knew of no financial changes

- **Ryder Property** Acct. 2615 – **\$4,125.32**
- **Hubbardston Preservation Trust** Acct. 8508 – **\$13,056.90**
- **Open Space Expense (donations) acct. 2612 – \$348.34**

### Unfinished (Old) Business:

- **Hubbardston Hikers – no updates**
- **Destiny Young's Fairyland Project – no updates.**
- **Land Conservation priority team – No meetings since last month.**  
Our next step will be to come up with a method for capturing the detail trail information that Mike Stoll and Kris Munroe of trails / key properties on the west side of town, using Mark's master trails map.
- **Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) status – Rick sent around a list of candidate goals.**
- **Beaver Pond Flooding – Try and get plan to work on now that Bob's tractor is running**
- **ARPA funds**
  - Based on input from Nate, it appears the funds (~\$16K) allocated to the OSC for an accessible trail, have been "likely" redirected to cover an electrical conduit expense on the town center project. This scenario has been discussed at a Select Bd meeting and met with initial approval
  - Mark suggested an alternative means of funding to the accessible trail project
    - There are 2 "owner unknown" parcels which the town could "take" ownership of.
    - In turn the town could sell the properties to DCR as these properties are in the Ware river watershed area and contiguous with other DCR land.
    - Mark's "guesstimated" value for the two properties was \$5K for one and \$25K for the other.
    - Rationale for this money going to the OSC project
      - This would be a way for the town to compensate the OSC for the loss of the ARPA funds
      - The OSC would do all the "leg work" to orchestrate the land acquisition.
    - Tim would take over as the focal point of the land acquisition of those parcels
    - Bob to schedule a meeting with Nate on Wed Nov. 1 to discuss all of this

## **New Business:**

### ● **OSRP Goals Discussion**

- Rick sent around a list of candidate goals based on information gathered via Ad Hoc committee meetings and associated public survey that he and Tim orchestrated.
  - Bob read through the list
- Highlights of subsequent discussion
  - Some items on the list could be used directly
  - Other items need more “specifics” in order to become “actionable” – aka have more specific scope, milestones, costs, dates, and phases.
  - E.g. Trail improvement projects
  - Types of improvements: bridges, hardening of wet areas, etc
  - Potential new trails to make loops
  - Which trails
  - Educational trails
  - vegetation species ID
  - Etc
- Action item
- Bob asked all members to take an action to come up with specific actions they would like to see in the plan and bring that to the next meeting

### ● **Trail Clearing**

- Bob mentioned that he, Steph, and helpers from a school group, his brother, and a barn team cleared Old Cross, Copper Mine, Link, Red Oak and Canesto Hill trails
- A total of about 51 hours
- Bob to enter all into the “hours collection” spreadsheet on the OSC Google drive

### ● **WPR yearly walk with DCR**

Bob, Tim, Steph met with Felicia Bakaj (with intros from Mark) at Mt Jeff and did the annual inspection walk. Walk was led by Tim and went down Behind the Chimney to the boundary line; progressed to Gates Hill trail, and back to the parking area. The group also ventured to the Malone Rd boundary by car. Felicia’s observation from the road was sufficient, and the inspection finished at that point. Nothing of note was observed on the walk.

- **Upcoming work days at Hidden Meadow on November 5th and at Rice – Riis on November 18th were noted**
- **The next meeting was planned for November 29th at the Slade Building Conference Room at 7:00 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Frend and Bob Hatch