

Open Space Committee

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Minutes

- I. Attendance and Approval of Minutes: Present were members Lucy Abisalih, Sue Simmons, Dawn Ackerman, Mary Ann Glennon, and Sandy Venner and guest, Martin Hanlon. Minutes for June 28, 2022 meeting were approved 5-0.
- II. Swearing-in by Town Clerk
- III. Priority Recommendations in Open Space Plan: It was decided to prioritize future plans for Emery St. and Community Gardens for a meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Jen previously offered to provide language for this request. Lucy has not heard back from Bill Holts regarding an estimate of cost of improving accessibility of McLaren Trail so she will try to get an estimate from other sources. Lucy will check history of town land by Merrimack River access at Locust St.
- IV. Next Steps to Protect Town Forest: Based on the discussion at the last meeting with Vanessa Hall from Greenbelt, it was decided that if the Town Forest qualifies for Article 97, it would not be necessary to get a Conservation Restriction to protect it. Sandy will seek permission from Carol McLeod to ask Town Counsel to research the Article 97 status.
- V. Trail Activities:
 - a. Fall trail clearing, etc: October 22nd at 9:30 with rain date of October 29th was selected as the date for fall trail projects. Sue will develop the list from items identified by the committee. Members will meet at Town Hall to get equipment, signs, etc.
 - b. Repair of culvert on Red Oak Hill Trail: According to Con Com Agent this work would require a public hearing with advertising costs of \$130-150. It was decided that OSC could not afford this from its \$610 expense line item. The committee will decide if it wants the article for \$3,000 for removal of trees to be amended by Town Meeting to cover other expenses.
 - c. Edibles Walk w/ Russ Cohen (\$175 for fee and expenses): Sue will ask Town Accountant about options for covering this expense. May ask for donations from participants on day of walk.
 - d. Essex Co. Trails and Sails: Sandy suggested committee may want to participate in this event next September.
- VI. FY' 23 Expenditures: Dawn reported that there is \$540 left after covering charge for email account.
- VII. Schedule next meeting: Tuesday, October 25th at 5pm