

Open Space Committee

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

MINUTES

- I. Attendance and Approval of November 28, 2023 minutes: Present were members Lucy Abisalih, Dawn Ackerman, Mary Ann Glennon, Sue Simmons, Sandy Venner and Sean Wright. Motion made and seconded by Lucy and Sue and voted to approve November 28, 2023 minutes.
- II. Update on Response to Beaver Activity at Marshview Pond: The water level in pond has again risen, blocking the Marshview Trail. There is further evidence of beaver tree harvesting along the Marshview Trail. Dawn will follow-up with Con Com to ensure they are updated on matters and learn if they plan to take action.
- III. Trail Activities
 - Status of Trail Clean-up Work – Sue will resend spreadsheet to update actions taken.
 - Trail tree removal – Sean removed tree on Doust Connector at Red Oak Hill Trail.
 - Lucy will send request to Select Board about reminding abutters of McLaren Trail to respect right-of-way.
 - Committee will determine in February when to re-request Town Meeting action to protect the Town Forest through Article 97.
- IV. Coordination with Master Plan Process: Survey is available for residents to complete until Feb. 16th. Lucy will draft email to be sent to respondents to Emery Street survey providing the link to the MP survey.

Sandy will ask Denise McClure if MVPC can have access to the data collected by the consultants to update the Open Space & Rec Plan. Lucy will ask Tom Abisalih, as MVPC rep, about use of LTA credits to engage MVPC to update the OS&R Plan.
- V. FY'24 Budget Plans and Expenditures: Motion by Sandy and Mary and voted to authorize Dawn to spend up to \$100 out of Trail Improvement Fund for spindles for the BeepBeep bridge. Sean will check if civil engineering students from Merrimack College can be engaged to assess cost of improvements to the McLaren Trail. Lucy will ask Dave Rimmer at Greenbelt if he knows a civil engineer who would do the assessment for a low fee.
- VI. Correspondence – Sandy explained inquiry to authorize assessment of soils on farmlands for eligibility for federal funding for preservation. MP consultants inquiring about lands in 61A were referred to the MVPC maps of open space and the Assessors.
- VII. Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm. Next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 22nd at 5pm to better accommodate schedules.