

Open Space Committee

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

MINUTES

- I. **Attendance and Approval of April 24, 2025 minutes:** Meeting called to order at 5:00pm. Present were members Lucy Abisalih, Sue Simmons, Dawn Ackerman, Sean Wright, Sandy Venner, and Mary Glennon. Motion made and seconded by Sue and Mary and voted to approve April 24, 2025 minutes.
- II. **Trail Activities**
 - **Coordinating new Marshview Trail with Greenbelt:** Sue reported that due to the CR held by Greenbelt, OSC needs to send a written request to Greenbelt seeking approval to make the trail changes. As it is Town-owned property, Jay Smith as Conservation Agent should also be notified and asked what the requirements are if we don't disturb any wetlands or create any structures.
 - **Trail maintenance and improvement opportunities:** Mary shared detailed information she acquired regarding the Mass Trails grants. It is suggested we seek \$60,000 or less along with the 20% match which can include some in-kind. NE Trailworks is considered to be a good partner for the project. Applications are available Nov. 1st and due Feb. 1st and funds can be expended over two field seasons. Mary will check if an approved OSRP is necessary (answer is NO). Sean will inquire if Jamaco will designate "McLaren Trail Restoration" for its charity donation next year. Mary will see if she can contact the property owner by the "BeepBeep" bridge so access can be created at that point.
- III. **Collaboration with Other Entities: Town Improvement Society** is asking public to assist with trail marking and clean-up on May 31st.
- IV. **Next Steps for Open Space and Recreation Plan:** Lucy reported that regrettably Merrimac is not eligible for an extension of its old plan as it has been expired too long. Lucy is prepared to issue the RFP. The following were identified for Lucy to invite to join the Advisory Committee: Select Board, Planning Board, Con Com, rep for sport leagues, Neighbors for Nature, and Green Energy. Lucy and Sean are interested in being the OSC reps. After July 1st the grant application for the \$20,000 will be submitted for start in the Fall. All OSC members are asked to review the prior OSRP as refresher.
- V. **FY'26 budget and Trail Improvement Article:** Dawn and Sue will check what supplies may be gotten with the \$424 that remains in the OSC line item account.
- VI. **Correspondence:** Dawn will contact Old Home Days committee requesting a vendor booth.
- VII. Next meeting will be June 24th at 4PM. Adjourned at 6:15pm.

Sandra Venner
June 17, 2025