

Open Space Committee

Thurs. August 30, 2018

Minutes



- I. **Call to order at 7:35pm:** Carrie Rennie, Mel Briggles, Sandy Venner and Kathy Milstein were present. Dave Collins sent an email saying he would be resigning from the committee as he was moving out of town. Minutes for June 18, 2018 were approved (3 yes, 1 abstain).
- II. **Welcome potential new members:** Dawn Ackerman and Susan Simmons have been teaching Donaghue School students about land stewardship and are interested in becoming actively involved with the Committee. It was voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that both be appointed to the Open Space Committee.
- III. **Next steps to support ECGA land purchase:** Cathy Coffin Lanois, Director of Development for Essex Greenbelt, discussed activities to further engage residents in the purchase of the land along Battis Road and help raise financial support. Greenbelt will seek grants to assist with the land purchase and creating a small parking area, installing an info kiosk, and creating a trail to a viewing platform on the edge of the pond. It was decided to engage the elementary students in suggesting names for the parcel and possible hold an event at Rhythm Café to seek support. The committee will meet at the site on Sept. 27 to plan a community site walk for Oct. 20th. Greenbelt will send out postcards, post flyers around town, and create a dedicated website about the activities.
- IV. **Finalizing Open Space Plan:** Carrie met with Vanessa for guidance on how to get DHCD approval for the draft plan. Vanessa said that Greenbelt could assist with a grant to engage Susan Moses as a consultant to work with the committee to wrap up the plan. Sandy made a motion seconded by Mel and passed (4- yes, 0-no) to ask the BOS to support an application to Greenbelt for a grant to used to enter into a contract with Susan Moses. Sandy made a motion seconded by Carrie and passed (4-yes, 0-no) to have the \$1,500 previously voted at Town meeting for assistance with the plan, also to be used for this purpose.
- V. **New signs and steps to increase public awareness of access to the river:** Dave gave Carrie the signs he purchased for Carey Park and Carrie will see that they are installed as planned.
- VI. **Trail Improvement Activities:** Dave reported that he will still be working on getting the trail map on the Town website updated. He plans to complete this by Oct./Nov.
- VII. **Blockage at lower end of McLaren Trail:** Carrie offered some revisions to the letter to the BOS Sandy had drafted. It was voted to move forward with sending it as amended.
- VIII. **ECGA interest in land in Town Forest:** Carrie has learned that the owner of the parcel on top of Long Hill in the middle of the Town Forest has contacted Greenbelt that he is interested in donating the property.
- IX. Meeting convened at 9:10 pm.