

## **AGENDA & MINUTES**

### **Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

**4:30pm – 6:00pm**

***Meeting held virtually via Zoom***

**Join via weblink:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82571143902?pwd=dm5BWHJyTCtzMzdyNE1UcVZRMINQQT09>

**Join via phone: 1-929-436-2866, Meeting ID: 825 7114 3902 Passcode: 343935**

1. Welcome & Introductions
  - a. Present: Alan Swedlund, Julie Caswell, Susan Haff, Andrea Leibson, Lynn Rose
  - b. Guests: Deborah Yaffe, Greg Henricks
2. Approve Minutes from 12-20-22 and 1-24-23 Meetings
  - a. Approved both sets of minutes.
  - b. Alan will circulate to the Committee the letter of thank you and commendation sent to Allison Gage of Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for her work on the Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Plan.
3. OSRC Plan and Follow-Ups
  - a. A letter of support for the Open Space and Recreation Plan has been received from the Planning Board. The Select Board has approved providing a letter and we are awaiting its arrival. The Community Preservation Committee will review a letter at its next meeting. Alan will follow up with the Conservation Committee.
  - b. Discussed importance of communication with town committees, including as work on a MassTrails grant application intersects with other committees' agendas and we can exchange feedback and support. Andrea attends the Connecting Community Initiative meetings that have representatives from all committees.
  - c. Discussed role of Community Preservation funds in providing support of Open Space and Recreation Plan action points. There is a 10% minimum set aside for open space and recreation in the program.

4. Mass Trails Grants Update
  - a. This will be a major Committee focus in the next year.
  - b. Discussed focus on action points in the Open Space and Recreation Plan that are relevant to a trails network.
5. Brief report from those attending 2023 MA Open Space Conference webinars  
(<https://www.maccweb.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1711259&group=>)
  - a. Set of 4 webinars with several case studies of local town efforts to preserve and protect land, as well as build recreational resources. Presenters said building relationships is important. Land protection decisions take time to occur. Noted importance of overlapping points of focus: land protection, climate change resiliency, and recreational opportunities, for example.
  - b. Presenters focused on being pre-positioned for when preservation opportunities arise.
  - c. Committee members looking forward to presentation on Mass Bio Map on Feb 23. Great source for mapping habitat, preservation, and several other data overlays.
6. Brief update on Trustees of Reservations Conversation
  - a. Conversation postponed until we are further along in the grant development process.
7. FRCOG update and next priorities
  - a. Julie has emailed Beth Giannini (Transportation Program Manager) at FRCOG to begin discussion on trails project.
8. Close meeting
  - a. The next meeting will on March 21 from 4 to 6 p.m. in person at Town Hall. It will be a brainstorming session focused on a MassTrails grant proposal for a trails network on the Pocumtuck Ridge and in other possible areas.
  - b. Adjourned at 5:50 p.m.
  - c. Minutes submitted by Julie Caswell.