

AGENDA & MINUTES
Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
4:00pm – 6:00pm

1. Welcome & Introductions:
 - Present: Alan Swedlund, Julie Caswell, Susan Haff, Andrea Leibson, Lynn Rose
 - Guests: Deborah Yaffe, Greg Henricks
2. Approve Minutes from 2-21-23 meeting
 - Approved minutes.
3. Open Space Application for CPA Funding '23 - Bike Trail
 - Request for bike trail feasibility study under CPA funds for \$20,000. OSRC voted to approve the proposal for the feasibility study for a Safer Bicycle Link between Old Deerfield and Greenfield—contingent on the Greenfield CPC funds, which are pending per the upcoming vote.
 - Discussion
 - Bikeable trails to get you off Cheapside Bridge to get to Old Deerfield without going on RT 5&10. Meeting on 3/29/23 in Greenfield.
 - Deerfield Selectboard said not to make commitments for financial support.
 - If George gets a commitment from a committee in Greenfield to also fund part of the feasibility study, Alan would like the OSRC to recommend it.
 - Emily would serve as the Town rep for Deerfield, but she wasn't sure if she was qualified. It is not clear as to what the real costs are and what the estimate is based on.
 - We will know the status before town meeting
 - Would be working with DCR, land ownership to the north meadows, etc.
4. OSRC Plan and follow ups
 - The committee to approve committee letter to Allison Gage.
 - Also, Allison now has all the letters required to accompany the OSRC Plan to the state.
5. Review and discussion of the Mass BioMap Webinar (Julie, Susan, Andrea)
 - Several members of the OSRC attended a training where they learned how to use the biomaps.
 - Go on Biomap Massachusetts on the internet which explains how to use it. Can look at all parts of the state.

6. Review available Town Maps for implementation of Open Space Action Plan

Pocumtuck Ridge Trails Network Trail Grant

- The entire Pocumtuck ridge has core habitat.
- Julie brought a printout of a colored biomap from the OSRC Plan:
 - i. Shows areas that are permanently and temporarily protected.
 - 1. Includes chapter 61 A and B.
 - 2. See the map key for color representation
 - 3. Permanently protected
 - a. Yellow
 - b. Green with white dots
 - ii. Part one:
 - 1. Connect existing trails– Pine Nook and Stage Road – not lots of preservation work as it already has trails and or public ownership.
 - iii. Part 2 – could be trying to protect the area that is not protected, including the rest of the ridge from Hillside Road to Keets Road.
 - 1. NE Forestry Foundation (does harvest) trees. They own land green with the white dot.
 - iv. Maps for Possible Trail Network
 - 1. Phase 1, Part 1 – permanently protected, north of Pine Nook – features Rice’s Ferry Road – no longer maintained town road – about 3 miles. Pocumtuck Ridge Trail goes up to Woolman Hill.
 - a. Need parking at both ends of Rice’s Ferry Road.
 - b. Rice’s Ferry Road has no sign on either end. There is land there that may be Eaglebrook’s land, but we would need to find out. The road is plowed up to the 2 stone pillars up to the stone house.
 - c. Allan Chase Foundation (connected to Eaglebrook) owns the property from the end of Rice’s Ferry to Pine Nook and land is in Chapter 61A.
 - 2. Phase 1 - Part 2 Pocumtuck Rock Area
 - a. Town Deerfield owns 3 lots:
 - i. Memorial Forest/Pine Nook Forest - has great trails but there is no public connection but goes into Allen Chase Foundation land. Would need to establish an agreement for people to cross over as part of the trail.
 - ii. Old Pine Nook Road to Pocumtuck Rock property was just redone and is in great shape.

- iii. Main trails – Pocumtuck Ridge Trail has a side trail that dips down into another section.
 - b. Steam Mill Forest has no trails as it has a cliff – located underneath the base of the tower on Pocumtuck Rock.
- 3. Part 3 –Stage Road Area –
 - a. Birchwood Nature Refuge – town owned. Deed given to Town to be developed as a nature reserve.
 - b. Hillside trailhead is right on Sugarloaf.
 - c. Green of map is north sugarloaf.
 - d. The Pocumtuck Ridge Nature Preserve
 - i. Bought by the Shrivvers
 - ii. Put in care of the Franklin Land Trust
 - iii. Managed by the Pocumtuck Stewards of the Land

Other Discussion

- Volunteer Support – collect volunteer time to count towards grant match.
- Jo Comerford is coming to the Selectboard mtg tomorrow to discuss town priorities.

Next Steps

- Working subcommittee mtg April 3 at 1 pm at Andrea’s house. Don’t need to post. Prepare for town mtg (April 24th)
 - Table at the town mtg
 - Reintroduce ourselves to the town - Provide info on work we did survey, OSRP plan, PPT – with a link to the
- Next official mtg April 25th at 4 pm (This was changed to a Working Group Meeting.)
- Trails Grant due Feb first – 10 months away
- Collect info from Trusts for Public Land
- Discussion with Rachel Bain and folks from Eaglebrook
- Pull out a section of the PPT from our public mtg
- Schedule of OSC members:
 - Julie away April 10 - May 11
 - Alan 8th to third of May
 - Denise - away 1st to April 18
 - Susan Haff - June first to June 10th
 - Andrea is away April 26 through May 7, and May 30 through the end of July

7. Close meeting

- Adjourned at 5:52
- Discuss next meeting date—Working Group Meeting on April 25