

AGENDA

Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 Minutes

Meeting was held in person at the Deerfield Town Hall, Conference Room

In attendance: Committee members Julie Caswell, Susan Haff, Andrea Leibson, Alan Swedlund
(Lynn Rose, absent)

Working group members Greg Hendricks, Denise Schwartz, Deborah Yaffe

Guest Alain Peteroy, Franklin Land Trust

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approved Minutes from 3-21-23 Meeting
3. Appointment of New Chair
 - a. Julie nominated and elected to serve as chair (3 yes, 1 abstention, 1 absent votes)
 - b. Alan thanked for his many years of service as chair. He will remain on the committee
 - c. Julie agreed to serve on the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) as OSRC representative
4. Working Group Updates
 - a. Julie, Susan and Andrea to meet with Rachel Blain of Eaglebrook School with knowledge of Chase Foundation land holdings on May 29
 - b. OSRC members and working group members to start looking at Franklin County registry of deeds on-line information for parcels of land owned by town of Deerfield
5. Discussion with Alain Peteroy, Director of Land Conservation, Franklin Land Trust
 - a. Discussed creating permanent restrictions on some town owned land
 - i. Identify parcels of land owned by town and determine whether they should be permanently restricted. For example, are any town owned lands along Pocumtuck Ridge or other areas where trail system might be built/identified?
 - ii. Look at deeds and do legal review to see what the intent for the land is/was.
 - iii. Move to permanently restrict appropriate parcels by having the town hold the conservation restriction; does this require legal counsel or vote at town meeting??
 - b. Approaches to & methods for protection of the Pocumtuck Ridge
 - i. Franklin Land Trust did create a trail corridor in Rowe-Charlemont area. This could serve as a model for Pocumtuck Trail.

- ii. Determine land included in trail corridor; much of this work has already been done by OSRC. See Julie notes from previous meetings
 - iii. For land not owned by town, create a **trail easement** with land abutters; may include paying landowners after calculating a value for their strip of land included in the trail corridor. Alain says that trail easement has little impact on landowner taxes or land use
 - iv. FLT can help facilitate trail corridor with town-owned trail easement
 - c. Walking/hiking trails and access along the Pocumtuck Ridge. Alain advises we sign the trail for “quiet enjoyment; no bikes, ATVs or horses”
 - d. Suggestion that Mass Trails grant have town and Eaglebrook/Chase Foundation as partners
 - e. Discussed NRCS, a federal website, which may have \$ for trail easements
6. Other news. Discussed the North Main Street Park cancelation
- a. Noted that \$2million had been assigned to Park development by CPC and that ~\$500K of that was spent on design. Remainder of \$ will be returned to CPC; potential funds for OSRC project
7. Close meeting
- a. Next meeting date—July 18, 2023 at 4:00 in town hall conference room
 - b. Adjourn 7:00pm

Minutes submitted by Andrea Leibson