

MEETING MINUTES

Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Committee

July 18, 2023

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Meeting was held in person at the Deerfield Town Hall, Conference Room - 8 Conway St., South Deerfield, MA

In attendance:

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

Working group members Greg Henricks, Denise Schwartz, Deborah Yaffe

Guests Randi Billings, Jason Billings

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approved Minutes from 5-23-2023 Meeting
3. Discussion:
 - a. Take aways from discussion with Alain Peteroy, Franklin Land Trust, at May meeting and follow-up information from Alain (All)
 - i. Alain provided great background on several facets of land preservation and trail access. We are eager to work together on the Pocumtuck Ridge.
 - ii. Alain sent information after the meeting on a trail easement program the Franklin Land Trust led to secure temporary and permanent trail easements. This program could be a guide for work on the Ridge.
 - b. Reports that are inputs to Committee's Work
 - i. Greenprinting Plan 2006-2007 (Lynn)
 - I. This report provides very useful information regarding residents' concerns and interests, conservation and preservation issues, and recreational opportunities.
 - ii. Soil Report 2022 (Julie)
 - I. This report is very useful information for the Committee's work. It highlights preservation and other activities for forested areas that support climate resiliency.
4. Working Group Updates (Julie Caswell, Andrea Leibson, Sue Haff, Deborah Yaffe, Greg Henricks)

- a. Report of meeting with Rachel Blain at Eaglebrook to discuss preservation and trails in the Pine Nook area (Andrea, Sue, Julie)
 - i. Andrea, Sue, and Julie had an informative discussion with Rachel. Rachel said that Eaglebrook's predominant concern is with security of its campus and slowing of traffic on Pine Nook Road, which goes through the campus. She is interested in further discussions about trails and trail use, bringing in other Eaglebrook representatives.
 - b. Update on research to date on conservation status of Town of Deerfield parcels
 - i. Pocumtuck Rock (Greg)
 - 1. Greg has completed research on Pocumtuck Rock. It was acquired by the Town in 1926, without indication in the deed of any restrictions on how it was to be used. The parcel does not have any permanent conservation restrictions. On the MassMapper, BioMap2, Pocumtuck Rock is both "Core Habitat and "Critical Natural Landscape."
 - 2. Andrea will ask the Conservation Commission what the process is to move parcels to be under its control and to establish permanent conservation restrictions for them.
 - ii. Pine Nook Memorial Forest (Julie)
 - iii. Steam Mill Forest (Sue)
 - iv. Birchwood Nature Refuge (Julie)
 - v. Deerfield River off Mill Village Road (Not yet assigned)
 - c. Discussion of grant application plans for Trails Network
 - i. All of the above points relate to grant applications.
 - ii. Alan noted that for lands to receive CPA funding for open space and recreation they must have permanent conservation restrictions in place.
5. Close meeting
- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.
 - b. Next meeting date—August 22, 2023, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Conference Room, Town Hal

Minutes taken by Julie Caswell.