

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2019

Meeting held in Senior Center

Attending: Bob Hatch, Stephanie Frend, Mark Kresge, Todd Livdahl, Chip Petterossi, Susan Worth

Call to order @ 7:13 pm

- Minutes from August 27th meeting approved unanimously.
- **Malone Road Conservation Area Wildflower Garden info** – Susan reported that Katie Young and the Girl Scouts are planning to plant bulbs in the garden on October 6th.
- **Draft of Geordie Lane land management plan for a Massachusetts Trails grant** – During the past month, Mark had created a plan for developing the Geordie Lane property for submittal with a grant application and presented it to the committee members for comment. Committee feedback is that it is an excellent plan: comprehensive, relevant, feasible, included all the supporting data (maps, pics, etc.). Susan commented that the delicate ecosystem of the property did not lend itself to equestrian or mountain bike use. Boundaries of the property have been marked.

This discussion also prompted further conversation on the concept of whether this parcel might be a “stepping-stone” as part of the link to a North-South or East-West trail corridor in line with Mark’s meeting with the Regional Trail Coalition.

- **Malone Road Conservation Area Restriction** – The Conservation Restriction document had been reviewed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and returned to Jassy Bratko of the North County Land Trust to be presented to the Conservation Committee at their September 3rd meeting. ConCom had not reviewed it at that meeting, postponing their approval to their October meeting. The boundaries of the property have all been marked.
- **Department of Fish and Wildlife Grant application** – Todd reported that the requirements of the grant limit the funds for equipment to be no more than 10%, so the grant is not applicable to use of its funds for drone use in monitoring and documenting the nesting birds in the conservation area fields.
- **Open Space Committee Project List** – Ryan has requested the committee’s fiscal year 2020 goals. Discussion concluded that our project list reflects these goals and review of the items on the list was conducted.
- **Hay field mowing status** – All fields have been mowed including Malone. Bob reported that Lance Laine is behind in payments and that none have been submitted to-date. Laine is charging \$5 per bale for 1st cutting and \$6 per bale for 2nd cutting. He reported that some of the hay quality was poor and fit only for construction hay.
- **Capital Request** – Committee discussed and there was general agreement was reached that we would submit a request from the committee by 10/15 for \$500 to Ryan for the coming fiscal year.
 - **Action** – Bob to submit the request to Ryan.
- **Town Open Meeting Training** – Chip has volunteered to attend this training session on Oct. 15th on behalf of the committee.
- **Open Space Plan Status** – There is uncertainty about whether Bob is on the next Board of Selectmen meeting agenda for discussion and approval of the Open Space Plan. The BOS has requested that the plan include updating the names of the current contributing committee members.

- **Malone Conservation Area work** – Lance Laine has offered to cut the brush in the east Malone field. The need for additional trees to be taken down at Dottie Rock to expand the vista was again brought up, but no date has been set.
- **Payment for materials used for the beaver deceiver and Malone Conservation Freedom Chair trail** – Bob will be preparing an invoice for these materials for committee approval and submittal to the appropriate fund for reimbursement.
- **Rules for events and gathering on town conservation property** – Mark advised that these rules were already posted on the Conservation Committee website, so there is no need for this committee to create a document for this purpose.
- **USDA Letter regarding possible Federal funding opportunity** – Rick was not present at the meeting so there was no update on follow-up.
 - **Action** – Rick to contact the USDA Farm Production and Conservation Agency to determine the qualifications and process for applying for these funds for next year.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm

Submitted by Susan Worth