

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2019

Meeting held in Senior Center

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

Guests: Hubbardston Girl Scout leader Deb Kaijala, Madison Kaijala, and Destiny Young

Call to order @ 7:05 pm

- Minutes from September 26th meeting approved unanimously after a grammatical edit.
- **Malone Road Conservation Area Wildflower Garden info** – The Girl Scouts and their leader attended as representatives of Troop 11809 of Hubbardston to present and discuss their Monarch Way Station planned with Susan for the Malone Road Conservation area contiguous to the existing wildflower garden. They were soliciting support from the committee to proceed with the program which is underwritten by the Monarch Watch organization to provide milkweed plants for creation of a “way station” where Monarch butterflies can feed during migration. The committee wholeheartedly agreed with and commended the plan.
- **Treasurer’s Report** – Chip reported speaking with the new town accountant, Kelly, and obtaining the most recent balances in town accounts which may be used for Open Space Committee projects:
 - **Ryder Property - \$5,691.32** (Sept.)
 - **Open Space Expense Acct. 297 - \$477** (Sept.)
 - **Hubbardston Preservation Fund (Hay Money) - \$4,186.40** (June)
 - **Action** – Chip to request a budget amount of \$500 for Open Space Committee expenses from Ryan to be submitted for the town budget. Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen approval is required.
- **Malone Road Conservation Area Restriction** – The Conservation Committee needs to approve the document. Bob, Mark, and Jassy Bratko of the North County Land Trust will be attending their November 5th meeting to discuss the document and request approval.
- **Fieldstone Farm, LLC** – Cynthia Henshaw from the East Quabbin Land Trust has approached the committee to inform us of the availability of a parcel of land owned by the Fieldstone Farm, LLC, also known as the Smith Farm. It is a 275 acre property on Lombard Road in Hubbardston contiguous to East Quabbin Land Trust land as well as Bickford Pond. Cynthia wanted to explore the possibility of our committee working with them to acquire the property as part of a regional network of open space extending from the Hubbardston Forest to Mt. Wachusett. Several members of the committee went on an initial walking tour of the property earlier this month and determined further investigation was warranted.
- **Friends of the Open Space Committee** – Bob presented the idea of creating a list of people who might be willing to work with the Open Space Committee on projects, trail stewardship and maintenance, and other events. The committee agreed this would be helpful in meeting our goals going forward.
- **Open Space Committee Project List** – Bob is in the process of updating this list and Rick has volunteered to be responsible for updating it going forward.
- **Malone Road Conservation area brush cutting** – Lance Laine, who holds the haying contract for the Conservation area fields, has agreed to cut the brush in the east field at Malone this fall.

- **USDA Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI)** – Following a letter to the Conservation Committee earlier this fall from the USDA referring to a GCI contract that might provide funds for maintenance of town fields, Rick has contacted the USDA Farm Agency offices in Holden to obtain more information on the this contract, its requirements, and the process for applying. He is awaiting a response from them.
- **Dottie Rock vista clearing** – We discussed removal of four or five more trees at Dottie Rock to provide an unimpeded view of Mt. Wachusett and the hills to the east. Mark is going to visit Dottie Rock to assess the practicality of doing so and report back.
- **Open Space Plan Status** – The Board of Selectmen has approved the final OSP document.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm

Submitted by Rick Jones