

Minutes of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation Committee
Weds. April 14, 2004
Staff Room Town Hall

Present: Rita Biagioni, Jessica Cajigas, Sarah Foss, Art Lazarus

Rita called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

Rita will call Tim Goddard and ask for an update on the APR meeting that was to be held in March.

Governor Romney's visit was discussed. The Governor would like to eliminate sprawl by instituting "Smart Growth" initiatives. (Mass. population increased by 5% last year, and land use is up 20%.) Gov. Romney would consider giving (open space) State funding to "Smart Growth" plans. Art mentioned that many Land Trusts are leery of this type of funding, because it may be used adversely by some real estate corporations.

Art & crew will be clearing a lot of trash from the Cobb and Hartwell properties. There are some large items that will require heavy equipment to remove. Much of the waste at Cobb's is leftover from the hatchery and chicken farm. The Boy Scouts have agreed to help build three bridges; two at Cobb's and one at Mary Shepherd.

Several members of this Committee will meet on 4/15 to search for vernal pools in Littleton.

Cynthia Wood from NEFF informed us that they will be holding a "trail day" at Prouty Woods on 6/5. They have also designed some signage and kiosks for the property. NEFF's Pingree easement in Maine is the largest conservation restriction in the US. They were awarded the easement because of their flexibility, and willingness to compromise. The Trust for Public Land and Nature Conservancy will be using NEFF's policy as their models for future easements.

We were told that a purchase & sale agreement has been signed for the horse farm on Goldsmith St. We think the property encompasses somewhere around 15 acres, and are aware that it is extremely wet in the valley formed between hills on Goldsmith Street and Great Road.

Jessica will make some edits to the typing she did on the land inventory and redistribute the lists.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. The next scheduled meeting is on Weds. April. 28th at 7:30 pm in room 230 of the Town Hall.