

Minutes of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation Committee  
Weds. June 9, 2004  
Room 230 Town Hall

Present: Rita Biagioni, Sarah Foss, Art Lazarus

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

We discussed the proposed 40 B project on 16.5 acres off of Newtown Rd. Maren Toohill confirmed that the property had been sold, however she didn't know to whom.

It was noted that the Conservation Commission has made a revision to the wetlands bylaw to include that the applicants must pay any legal fees that are incurred.

Art has finished the draft plan for the WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) grant. The Natural Resource office in Westford will review the draft and compile a final plan. Once the nesting season is over, the field at Long Lake Park will be mowed and, since the WHIP grant is a 50/50 match, they will compensate the amount spent by the Cons.Com. on mowing. They will also analyze soil samples and give advice.

Art will contact Jim Clyde to see what services the Highway Dept. can provide this year.

Art informed us that there has been significant usage of ATV's on Long Lake Park. The path clearly indicates that the machines are coming from residents of Ipswich Dr. We will reprint Jessica's newspaper article on rules and regulations and ask the Cons. Com. To mail it to the resident. Rita will also set up a meeting with the Police Dept to discuss proper use of the conservation properties, and to address vandalism on the lands. Art also mentioned that people are dumping yard waste at the end of Middlesex Dr near the lake and the trail entrance to the Park. Sarah will inform the CLC and ask that they help with the problem.

Art, Ray Grande and Charles Tirone have been working diligently on the Mary Shepherd trails and marking property lines there. The crew has also done work on the Hartwell land; clearing and cleaning by Beaver Brook. There has been work at Bumblebee Park, and they are planning poison ivy control. Additionally, the Trust has hired a contractor to assist with the clean up on the Cobb land.

We received a notice of another piece of town-owned property that the Selectmen are considering auctioning off. It was suggested that we meet with the Cons Com and other boards to find out their feelings on this process, and perhaps assemble a plan to address the matter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next scheduled meeting will be on July 21, at 7:30 in the Conservation Commission Office.