

Minutes of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation Committee
Weds. January 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.

We discussed a memo from the Selectmen regarding a parcel of land on Pine Road that the owner wishes to donate to the Town. Rita will contact the Selectmen and voice our approval of that donation. We also received a memo asking for our submission to the Town Report. Sarah will draft that article for review.

Rita spoke with Chief Kelly about snowmobilers using conservation properties. The Police are aware of it, and have spoken to several snowmobilers they've seen. He said that it's difficult to enforce the law, and the ones they have talked to are from out of town.

We received a copy of a letter to the Selectmen from Linda Roberts of Colonial Drive. She suggests the town hold a "green-up" day, when various organizations and individuals would commit a day to picking up trash and debris from around town. Sarah will contact Linda and offer our support.

Rita has contacted the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board to embark on the list of Action Items in the current Open Space Plan. She will meet with representatives of both boards to discuss the Plan's recommendations. The Committee went over those Action Items for clarification.

Jessica spoke about a town-owned recreation complex in Concord, which has a gym, swimming pool, exercise area, day care, etc. Something similar would be a nice addition to Littleton's offerings, however there are no vacant town-owned buildings available in which to house a center like that. It is something to keep in mind.

Art reported that the Conservation Trust has acquired several more parcels: the Dunn development on Harwood Ave donated 10 acres, and the conservation restriction given by the Smiths on Whitcomb Ave has been finalized, thanks to extra effort by Don MacIver. The Halloran development on Colonial Drive yielded 3.3 acres that was given to the Conservation Commission.

Art is authoring a newspaper article telling how many acres Littleton preserved in 2003.

Rita and Art met with NEFF to discuss the trail system on the Prouty and Morgan properties. NEFF has a good plan in place to deal with maintenance issues, land management and control of invasive species. They plan to install signs to mark trails and unique places, as well as a kiosk by the (Prouty) barn with maps and other information.

Art and Melissa Spurr will hold a meeting at the library for all the land stewards on Saturday the 17th. There will be a question and answer period, and general information will be distributed.

Art noted that the Brook Way conservation site, near the Castle in the Trees playground, has been heavily vandalized. There is an extreme amount of trash there, and it appears that some of the local youths have tried to build bridges and other structures near the brook. He feels it will require the use of heavy machinery to get it in order. He also anticipates that a lot of work will need to be done on the Cobb property in order to comply with the requirements of that conservation restriction.

Art is preparing a report for the Trust and Commission on the over 400 hours of maintenance that he, Ray Grande and Charles Tirone completed last year.

Jessica volunteered to help Art compile a list of "to-do" items for each parcel of land that Art will review with the stewards and the Highway Department (for projects that require their assistance). Art will continue to work with Peter Church to complete the spreadsheet on conservation restrictions.

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