

Hopkinton Open Space Committee
Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 7:15 p.m.

LOCAL HISTORY ROOM Hopkinton Town Library
Final Minutes – approved at 12/11/13 meeting

Administration

- In attendance: Bob LaPree, Lucia Kittredge, Ron Klemarczyk, Dijit Taylor, Rob Knight
- Minutes of October meeting accepted as presented
- Committee membership – brainstorm ideas for new member – Dijit to contact possible candidates
- Upcoming meeting dates: January 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, April 9, May 14, June 11 (all at Local History Room at Hopkinton Town Library)

Trails Group Report

- Trail group has learned that they need to hold meetings in a public space and get the agenda posted prior to meetings
- The new trail is being well received and well used – 1000 more brochures have been printed
- There are concerns from some walkers about places where the trail is hard to follow
 - Lucia will go out with one of those concerned to see where further markings are needed and install signs/arrows that she can get from either Rob or Lee
- Rob has a Boy Scout from Concord who is interested in clearing brush and making a kiosk for the Kimball Cabin area as an Eagle Scout project
- Acquisition of possible wayside picnic area near a new part of the Hopkinton Village Greenway not of interest to the owner at this time.
- Ransmeier parking lot improvements have been completed

Projects

- South Road appraisal has been completed by Crafts Appraisal. Open Space Committee continues to feel that this is not a project that is a good fit for the open space bond money. OSC suggests that next step is for cons com to contact abutters to determine if they are interested in trying to raise part of the money to purchase either fee or CE.
- Beyer Conservation Easement information update has been provided by Neal to Audubon. Dijit to check with Neal if there has been any response from Audubon.
- Rob will be working on behalf of 5RCT on a conservation easement on the lot acquired for non-payment of taxes at confluence of Blackwater and Contoocook Rivers which both conservation commission and Open Space Committee recommended to Selectmen before the land is offered for sale

Updates

- Website – nothing new

- Appraisal update – Dijit to get estimate on cost of appraisal from Scot Heath prior to conservation commission meeting next week
- Trail improvement grant – Bob’s excellent pre-proposal was turned down for funding
- Landowner Outreach
 - Trails subcommittee to further consider where to focus next attention – trail links to Contoocook Village or beyond Sweatt Property are some under consideration
 - Trail link between South Road and Beyer Lane still desired – perhaps contact likely prospect again in spring with suggestion of new plantings or a new stone wall to border a trail under agreement
 - Rob to contact landowner near new trail to set up meeting so he and Dijit can get acquainted and express continuing interest of OSC and cons com to future trail/conservation of their linking land
- Trail ordinance – Ron still drafting a proposed trail ordinance to present to the Selectmen for adoption. It will be based on the one in place in Concord and will clarify where motorized uses, including snowmobiles, as well as horse use and allowed, and that town permission is needed before creating trails on town owned land

New Business

- New prospect – A landowner that OSC has previously expressed interest in has asked for a meeting to discuss possible town acquisition. Ron to set up meeting with himself, Dijit and the landowners
- It is time to once again review the OSC selection criteria and list of priorities that was generated in the committee’s early months back in 2003

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dijit Taylor, recorder