

Dover Open Space Committee
June 2, 2015

WEB SITE

Members present: Amey Moot, Chair; Justine Kent-Uritam; Jerry Arnold; Dick Wood; Paul Wood; Barbara Roth-Schechter; Henry Faulkner; Jane Brace; Candace McCann

Members absent: Boynton Glidden; Mark Bush; Eric Loeffler; Carol Lisbon

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present.

Justine moved that we accept last month's minutes. Barbara seconded. After a vote, the minutes were accepted.

Amey shared photos of the new bog crossing bridges in Wylde Woods. These crossings were paid for with maintenance funds from the Dover Conservation Commission.

Updates:

- 1) Justine has updated the list of the top 50 land owners in Dover. Usually an annual letter is sent out to these households, offering to share conservation information. As many members concur, easily half of these landowners already know about their conservation options, and Open Space never wants to seem intrusive in the interest of simply offering information; therefore, Open Space members felt that no letter need be sent this year.
- 2) Hale Reservation has a new logo/branding and website. There is an upcoming obstacle course run through the mud that has provided great fun in prior years.
- 3) Negotiations continue to acquire critical lands at the top of Pegan Hill.
- 4) There is a new parking meter in Rocky Woods, one of TTOR's Medfield properties. Members will be issued a personal number to be entered, allowing them to park for free. Everyone else will need to pay for parking. This new arrangement, at Rocky Woods and four other TTOR properties, is designed to help track usage and free up the rangers at each site so they can provide maps and guidance, rather than needing to collect money.
- 5) In other TTOR news, every Wednesday, from 9 am – 1 pm, there is trail work to be done. Everyone is invited to join; meet at Powisset Farm and it is suggested that you bring a sandwich for lunch.
- 6) Justine shared that the *Boston Globe* article on the Beaver Deceiver, being used effectively by the Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust, has become a popular option for dealing with the resurgence of beavers in the area. Many organizations are looking for ways to co-exist with beavers and support them in their environmental work, whilst still protecting important lands and resource areas.
- 7) On Saturday, July 18 (rain date: July 19), Justine will lead a three-mile hike on a part of the seven-mile Upper Charles Trail, beginning in Holliston. The walk will commence at 10 am and should end by noon.
- 8) On Saturday, July 11, at 10 am, Candace will lead a walk in Noanet Woods and Larabee Estate, beginning from the new TTOR Powisset Street parking lot.
- 9) There is still an opening available on the Audubon Advisory Board, if anyone is interested.
- 10) Barbara updated Open Space on the many Board of Health projects underway:
 - The new well regulations are now finished. Town Counsel advised that the regulations need to be summarized and published in the paper, but there is no requirement for a public hearing. One point is that fracking (with only water, no chemicals) is allowed in deep wells in Dover. There are new definitions to help clarify (and contemporize) the well regulations.
 - Regarding the water quality study, Dover is offering to split the cost of water analysis for interested homeowners.

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- There has been a fairly decent response to the tick survey that was mailed out to all households in Dover.
 - “Tick Talks” have been organized by Al Futterman of the Nashua River Watershed Organization and have been and continue to be given by Barbara in both Pepperell and Harvard in collaboration with the MA Department of Public Health. As Barbara explained, neither site is particularly interested in deer reduction, but people want to learn all about tick-borne disease signs, symptoms, background, and management.
- 11) Candace shared with the group about her recent hiking experiences in Wylde Woods. Jerry Arnold has provided excellent signage, and there is a large trail map at the parking circle, clearly delineating the trails and spurs. Conservation Commission now has that map on record, and it can be emailed to any interested parties, or the map at the trail head, can be photographed with a cell phone.
 - 12) Henry told Open Space members that the Planning Board, in the coming year, plans to work through the existing zoning by-laws, updating a few and leaving untouched more problematic issues.
 - 13) September’s meeting will be the *second* Tuesday of the month, to avoid any confusion around Labor Day and the start of school. The rest of the year’s Open Space meetings will return to the *first* Tuesday of each month, unless a change is agreed upon by all members.

At 9:10 pm, Barbara moved to adjourn the meeting, and Jane seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace McCann, Open Space member