

## **Open Space Committee**

### **Minutes for January 18, 2023**

In attendance: Frances Lewis, Joanna Buffington, Karen Strauss, Rob Young, Kait Logan, Saul Fisher, Keith Johnson

Start time: 3:03 pm

#### **Review of Minutes:**

Correction for October minutes- date, and Karen Strauss is the rep., otherwise unanimously approved. November minutes - unanimously approved

#### **Sandy Meadow Signs:**

- Drone pics of sandy meadow sent around
- Need Pauls help to complete map, overlooks, legend, and length of trail. Decided it doesn't need to be exactly to scale as long as the different areas are accurate to their length.
- Want to extend ada trail
- We have enough for price quote but need to continue to work on map.
- Kait to share reel and tag those who helped out.

#### **Conservation Restrictions:**

- 14 properties are lacking certain CRs and the process needs to be finished. Referred to Joanna to get an opinion on how to proceed politically. Keith provided a status update: town council attorney Vicky said that some of the delays are from Dept of Conservation and Recreation (the state) who finally just hired people. He just received today.

#### **Procedures for the Use of the Conservation Fund:**

- Karen and Kait to partner and create a simple submission template when requesting funding that we would submit to ConsComm. Use CPA template and a NH example.

#### **OSRP:**

- Consultant bid came in high. So considering looking at separating a bid for a consultant for land stewardship help and a separate consultant for the OSRP. As well, seeing what volunteers or staff can contribute to potentially cut down on cost. Volunteers can contribute but it is quite an undertaking.
- Shana is putting out a new bid for land stewardship. OSRP is likely the piece that will need to be done in house.
- As part of asking what steps staff might do, we should ask Natural Heritage to update us on the priority parcels, since the Natural Heritage Atlas was updated in 2021. Committee requested Keith to request this information.

#### **Social Media:**

- Suggestions from group:  
Rob suggested we request a lot of his followers that he will send to me. He also made the point to encourage the group to share any postings that do occur.

#### **Stewardship of Conservation Area:**

- Saul proposed trying 1/4 inch metal cloth vs 1/2 inch that we already have on our test site. Possible test sites were discussed. Joanna suggested a spot just to the left of the parking area at the Chapel in the Pines. Saul and Keith to check out site together and see what supplies they need.

- Keith suggested clover or a Rye grass as a good option to plant in an area where invasive have been removed to help combat regrowth.
- Nicole Paine has updated signage at Cottontail trail site. Fresh maps at entrances and clearer directional signs within trail.
- Karen mentioned that there has been some overgrowth in the “bowl” overlook at sandy meadow. We discussed this being included in the proposal to AmeriCorps for next years work.
- Group to meet there and post as a public meeting to discuss anything else we want to include in the proposal.

**Old or New Business:**

- Karen mentioned that Earth Day is coming up and suggested we think about scheduling some walks
- We agreed that Frances should order a 2x4 Open Space Committee sign from Staples (\$48). Rob brought up checking out Vista Print and comparing prices and also ensuring the sign has grommets.
- Need a new member. The latest new member had a conflict of timing that prevented her from continuing.

**Next meeting date:**

February 15, 2023