

Open Space Committee

Sunday, August 16, 2020

Carey Park, River Road 9:30 am

Minutes

- I. Attendance and Approval of March 12, 2020 minutes: Present were Carrie Rennie, Chair, Dawn Ackerman, Mel Briggles, Heather Burkett, Sue Simmons, and Sandy Venner. Motion by Sue and Dawn to approve March 12, 2020 minutes passed.
- II. Discuss Ideas for future activities (see attached list from Heather) : Sue will draft a booklet for children's trail activities similar to the NPS Junior Ranger program. She will send it to the committee for comments and explore how we can make it available to families. There was discussion about updating the trail and open space maps with help of MVPC. Sue is learning map creation using GPS which would aid this. Heather has spoken to the library director about creating story pages like they have done on the library grounds. Possibly these could be put at Carey Park for Halloween. Hopefully in the Spring it will be possible to host a trail walk again.
- III. Report on Status of Trails and missing signs and map boxes: Mel presented the impressive trail signs he had made. Sandy will talk to DPW about using metal post they have to install these. Heather and Carrie, along with their husbands, will make plans to install them. Sue will replace the two missing map boxes.
- IV. Installation of signs for retention ponds: Mel will look into getting these made.
- V. Identify further updates for OS page on Town website: Heather has been working on getting the OS webpage on the Town website updated. Suggestions for inclusion were the need for volunteers to adopt a trail, photos and slides, and trail walks when scheduled.
- VI. New OSC Town email address and other: The OS account was charged \$87.40 to cover new official town email address. Motion by Sue and Dawn with all in favor to authorize Carrie, with Sandy as backup, to approve bills when it is not possible for a timely vote at a meeting.
- VII. Schedule next meeting and adjourn: Next meeting will be Thurs., Sept. 24, 2020 at 5 pm at Carey Park, weather permitting. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Sandra Venner

September 21, 2020

Heather's Future Activities Suggestions:

Develop a program (similar to the NPS Junior Ranger program) where children can complete activities that specifically go with each location to earn a sticker or badge at each of our sites.

Develop a walking tour/biking tour of Merrimac that we can have on our website for people to access with historical or town related sites.

Work with a local yoga place to have yoga at Carey Park (parking might be an issue). They do this in Amesbury and it caught my attention.

Create signage that is appealing. For example we were on the McLaren trail and there was a handwritten sign there. It might be more welcoming if something was made by the town.

Have an nature outdoor story time (for kids) and then a walk in the woods.

Work with the library to promote our trails and open space areas by having our information posted on their website.

Offer nature guided trails (by someone?) or specific information (such as plant types, trees) along our trails.

Have a nature/science hour that offers the science behind why we need open space (or a fun science related experiment) at an outdoor location

Secure some more locations for conservation (fingers crossed!)