



Oakham Open Space Advisory Committee

MINUTES: Meeting of October 28, 2010

Attending: Rick Hendra, Phil Warbasse (chair), Ron Wolanin, Cynthia Henshaw (consultant)

1. Report of activities since last meeting:

a. Phil recounted his hike of the Central Mass Rail Trail from Coldbrook Rd. to Barre Depot, Mt. Garbage, and beyond.. This followed and continued the Trail walk that several members took with members of Oakham Parks & Rec back in July.

b. Rick reported a breakthrough on the long promised OSAC webpage, as Cathy Amidio has mercifully offered to get it up there for us in light of Paul McNeil's unresponsiveness.

c. Rick and Nancy Richards attended a meeting of Wachusett Greenways August 5, in Holden, where the future of the trail in Oakham and beyond was discussed, along with the potential for collaboration between WG and OSAC.

i. Because we were unable to meet before it was required, Rick recently sent a letter of support, with Phil's approval, for WG's 2010-2011 Recreational Trails grant to the Division of Conservation & Recreation. This grant would fund the completion of the last mile of Trail in Oakham and the first mile heading into Barre.

ii. Rick also met separately with Cynthia Henshaw and Ed Yaglou, one of the founding members of WG, and a denizen of Barre, about ways we might work together and with our counterparts in these other towns to extend the Trail through Barre (where it's mostly in private hands now), and then on to New Braintree, Hardwick, and Ware (where parts of the Trail in each town are managed by the East Quabbin Land Trust).

2. Updates on 2010 Action Plan continued into this year:

a. Rail Trail Initiative:

Discussion ensued over the Trail and where those different parcels were and which might be of particular interest or difficulty and why.

[At our next meeting, we will need to discuss specific things we might do this coming year to follow through on our Rail Trails initiative]

b. Education/Outreach:

i. Cynthia informed the Committee of an invitation from the [North Quabbin Land Trust?](#) to co-sponsor an estate planning and conservation presentation. This would involve no obligation, but would give us an opportunity to support and promote a relevant public service. We agreed it's about time we made ourselves known in Town, and we asked Cynthia to let them know that the Oakham Open Space Committee would be interested in co-sponsoring the session.

ii. Cynthia also relayed an offer from a MA consulting forester for a presentation to landowners on managing their woods.

iii. This led to a general discussion of how we might reach out to local landowners of, say, 10 or more acres in town and engage them in discussion of options available for conserving heir property. There was some consensus around the idea of two or three efforts over the coming year, perhaps involving the consulting forest, or perhaps a vernal pool nature walk

iv. We will need to get back to this outreach plan at our next meeting to nail down our outreach plans

c. Vernal pool certification efforts:

Rick finally got the sketch map ready so that Ron could include it with all the other maps, photos, and forms he'd pulled together months ago to send to the DCR.

3. Wrapping up:

Noting that our next regular meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month would fall on Thanksgiving and the one after that on Dec. 23., we agreed to postpone our next meeting till Dec. 2, and the next till Dec. 30.

It was then moved and unanimously approved that the meeting adjourn, and so it did at 8:30 pm