

Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
Open Space Committee
Phone: (978) 874-7414

Minutes of Meeting – April 5 2022 – Selectmen’s Meeting Room

Attended: Isiah Grigos, Marie Auger, Jodi Snyder, Sue Millman, Heather Billings, Amy Tisdale Tetrault and Town Planner-Stephen Wallace. Guests: Chris Mossman from the Hager Park Committee and Don Seifert, local mountain bike group.

The meeting started with approval of the minutes for February 15, 2022.

The first order of business was planning for our volunteer trails maintenance day, to be held on Saturday June 4th, coinciding with National Trails Day. The event will be limited to 20 volunteers (not including the Open Space Committee and the crew leaders), Westminster residents only, and children over 14 are welcome if accompanied by a parent. Volunteers will need to pre-register by contacting the Town Planner. We will recommend that volunteers bring gloves and bug spray.

People will gather at the Crocker Pond Recreation Area at 7:30 AM. Heather will open the gate so people can access the parking area. Heather or Crocker Pond staff will rope off a portion of the picnic area for the volunteers. Town Planner will place an order with Dunkin Donuts for coffee and muffins for that morning. Amy and Sue will bring bottles of water. Crocker Pond staff will direct Wachusett catering where to set up the box lunches when they arrive around 11 AM.

Volunteers will need to sign a liability waiver. Town Planner will welcome everyone as they help themselves to coffee and muffins while filling out the liability waiver. Sue will serve as safety officer for Crocker Pond and Amy will serve as safety officer for Hager Park. The safety officers will hold onto the waivers for their respective group of volunteers and will be provided with a first aid kit. Planner will inform Police & Fire about the day in advance.

After the morning welcome, the Hager Park volunteers will depart to Hager Park and the Crocker Pond volunteers will stay on. Dan Seifert and Dennis Powers will act as crew leaders for Crocker Pond and Chris Mossman and the Hager Park Committee will act as crew leaders for Hager Park. The crew leaders will explain the morning’s work program for their respective locations. Only the crew leaders will handle power tools.

Dan and Dennis will meet with the Crocker Pond Committee on Tuesday April 12 to discuss a work program for that area and what supplies/equipment they will need. Town Planner will walk the work area with Dan & Dennis sometime in late April to review the work program and go over the supply/equipment list. Hager Park Committee will meet on May 12 to discuss a work program for that area and what supplies/equipment they will need. Town Planner will walk the work area with Chris Mossman in mid-May to review the work program and go over the supply/equipment list.

Both crews will break at noon and reconvene at the Crocker Pond Recreation Area for a box lunch generously provided by the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area. That will conclude the Town’s first volunteer trail maintenance day.

The last item discussed was a potential land protection project for 249 West Princeton Road. The landowners were present at our early March land protection workshop and contacted the North County Land Trust shortly afterwards to discuss land preservation options for their property. The Land Trust and Town Planner walked the property last week at it appears to be an ideal candidate for protection.

The Committee discussed other properties worthy of protection and will revisit this item at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.