

Open Space Management Plan Committee Public Forum  
June 16, 2010

Present: Dena DeSena, Marti Blair, Jon Planinsek, Mike Duddy  
Jessica Sullivan, Town Council Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dena DeSena.

**Dena DeSena** greeted the audience present and those who watching the meeting from home.

Conservation Commission members introduced themselves.

**Dena DeSena** listed the different activities (trail days, regular meetings, building bridges, boat racks, hang signs, etc.) the Conservation Commission members do during the year together with dedicated volunteers.

**Jessica Sullivan** read the Charge of the Open Space and Greenbelt Management Committee.

**Marti Blair and Jessica Sullivan** gave a presentation on the Town owned properties and Town's conservation easements. They showed the GPS trail maps and explained that there will be a CE map created including all the trails. The Commission is working on the best ways to provide information on trails and to make trails accessible to the public. Marti Blair emphasized how extremely committed the Town Planner is how hard is she working on to get easements or arrange for transfers.

**Mike Duddy** talked about the possible issues might come up and would like to get comments about from the public.

- Walking dogs, off leash, close to homes and street.
- Mountain bikes on trails, (local club volunteers already provide help with maintenance).
- Horses have a greater impact on trails than walkers, is this an issue?
- Local resident's encroachment – fences, planting, etc.
- Hours of usage of trails.

The town never had an open space operational, management plan before, so this is a golden opportunity.

**Sheila Wellehan – 24 Rocky Hill Road**

Her priorities are increasing access, good mapping of trails, and let people know about possibilities. She encourages more publicity.

**Dena DeSena** – map on website will show trails, the length of the trails, etc.

**Mike Duddy** – signage of trails improved during the past years, GPS maps will show where trails start and end.

**Dena DeSena** – at larger trails info boxes with maps are already available and this is priority. Please send comments to Town Planner, Maureen O’Meara to help Commission to make a better plan. There will be another meeting on this around mid fall.

**Jessica Sullivan** – The Commission talked a lot about mapping, giving information to the public on the length of the trail, the time needed to walk the trail – it will be terrific.

**Dena DeSena** – The second half of each Conservation Commission meeting will be dedicated to the Open Space Management Plan.

**Sheila Wellehan** – not sure about the form of comments from the public. Suggests not using “dogs off leash”, using instead “voice control and in sight” as this implies the dog owner’s responsibility. Land Trust has rules on their trails and it would be practical to use the same rules.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted: Aniko Varadi

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