

Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2022

Open Space and Recreation Committee

In attendance: Laurie Pike, Dana Williams, Alex Reisman

Audience of citizens: none

7:12p Meeting called to order

7:15p Meeting minutes from March 8 approved by roll call vote, all three yeses. Alex will send to Janice and Paul.

7:16p Laurie sent in her work so far for feedback. We haven't heard back from Kimberly or Tamsin.

7:21p Discussion of survey goals. Figuring out how people use the land and how they want the land to be used. What are people's priorities in protecting and making resilient those open spaces that we have? E.g. invasive species management, planting red and white oaks for diversification, opening up canopy to let in more diverse species.

Alex: Will people know what activities are most important for resilience?

High on the list of priorities for the people who responded to the forest survey:

- Promoting biodiversity
- Enhancing habitat for birds
- Enhancing habitat for small animals
- Improving access for recreation
- Improving scenic beauty
- Protecting unique special cultural areas
- Low on the list: improving hunting & fishing, maintaining private, green certificate

Dana: Hunting and fishing is popular in town, but mostly with people who are coming from outside of town

Alex: Are there any tradeoffs among the priorities?

Dana: Potentially something like clear-cutting a forest to make meadow for biodiversity

Laurie: Potential question: are there future areas the town should protect?

7:33p Review Wendell survey questions as inspiration for our survey

Idea to include a map of public lands as reference material in the survey. What should be included?

8:00p Do we want the survey to reach tourists? Or focus only on Rowe taxpayers? Most likely taxpayers and longer term renters – people who live in Rowe.

8:15p Question about allowing out of towners to use Rowe facilities? How to formulate this question.

8:22p Review Whately's survey questions for inspiration/comparison.

8:33p Discussion of adding a question about a community center on our survey.

8:35p How should we distribute the survey? Paper only, or paper and online?

8:37p What's next? Priorities are putting together the survey:

- Getting a map together for the survey
- Making changes discussed for the survey
- Alex to do a first pass with changes; Dana and Laurie to take a second look and fill in more specifics

How to tabulate information after survey is completed?

We will discuss the survey draft at next meeting.

8:40p Meeting adjourned.

Approved at the Tuesday, May 3 meeting by roll call vote Laurie Pike, Dana William, Alex Reisman