

Open Space and Preserves Advisory Committee (OSPAC)
Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2015 v2

Attendance:

Members:

Greg Monteleone
Mark Gordon
David Gordon
George Scott
Stan Weil
Callie Bauer
Susan Henry
Dan Welsh (Town Board)
Steven Morowitz
Dana Mayclim
Mike Surdej

Guests: none

Regrets:

Joe Tansey
Rose Bonanno
Michael Ferrara

Scribe: Mark and David Gordon
(Edits from SW, SH, MS)

Meeting began 7 PM at Town House

Discussions

Updates on the Preserves:

Leon Levy Preserve (LLP):

- To check possible new land encroachment by neighbor.

Old Field Preserve (OFP):

- Preserve will be treated with weevils in July for mile-a-minute invasive. Lots of poison ivy.
- David and Mark performed GPS of trails and trail maintenance. David reformatted preserve map with GPS markers and posted it in the kiosk.

Brownell Preserve (Goldens Bridge):

- Crown Maple has approval to harvest maple sap from trees in Brownell. An array of drainage tubes and ducts is in place (and will remain year-round). The fees from Crown Maple will be reinvested into the preserve and will support the development of a management plan and ultimately the possibility of state funding. Sap collection continues. Several tubes traverse the trail and will be relocated. ACTION: Dana will check that payments are being received.

- Educational programs will be created for adults and children, targeting Oct. Hopefully this will increase visit to Brownell.
- A potential benefactor would like to donate money for hiking trails in Brownell. Mountain bikers will probably still be permitted.
- Perdita will be Chief Trail Steward.

Onatru Farm Preserve:

- To change sign at entrance to “camping by permit only” and repair kiosk holding sign
- Stan Weil replaces Steve Hoyt as Chief Trail Steward.

Town Park

- Don Moore’s Eagle Scout proposal-work on blue trail. Construct bridge (above ground level over an intermittent wash area), mini-kiosk, directional sign eastern entrance, trail closed signs for areas with heavy erosion, and check-dam for steep hill with heavy erosion (needs update).
- Rose may need 1 more volunteer. Mike Surdej can help.

Katonah Lewisboro School District (KLSD) (JJHS/JJMS) and Michelle Estates (ME)

- Town, KLSD, and ME now support proposal to develop a multiuse trail and activate trail easement in ME.
- Mark has recontacted owner, 16 Mt Holly E, about trail access (betw Mt. Holly East and Silkman (ME)). Will arrange a walk through meeting including Mark, David, Greg, Dan, and Peter Parsons if available.

Falcon Ridge (not updated)

- Provision for a trail in the community. Dan, representing Town Board, will contract Boniello so appropriate people can advise about the trail. May need wetlands inspection. The certificate of occupancy will be based on the trail.

Trail Stewards:

- Trail stewards will patrol their preserve and help keep the trails open and maintained.
- Two Tiers of volunteers: Preserve Steward, Trail Crew
- Per George, there is a critical need for Chief Trail Stewards and Trail Crew. Will seek volunteers through community, including LVAC, Fire Dept, and newspaper. Steve will draft a feature article for the Lewisboro Ledger. To inquire whether local trails and events can be a regular announcement in the Ledger.
- Chainsaw crew-only Mike and George are left. Need other volunteers.

Misc business

- In May-June, Rose, George and Mike Surdej supervised 4 JJHS senior students in an internship in which they worked with various local preserve and trail entities (OSPAC, LLT, NYNJ Trails Conf., etc.) on a hands-on educational and community service project (e.g. native plant garden). Students did great work! Program was successful. Rose and Mike provided their positive feedback to the teachers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Future meeting(s): Aug. 10, 2015, 7 PM at the Town House