

**Approved Minutes of the OS&R Committee Meeting  
Monday, August 5, 2013 at 7:30 PM  
Rockport Public Library**

**Members in attendance:** Lawrence Neal (LN), Peter Van Demark (PV), Stephanie Cunningham (SC), Ted Tarr (TT)

**Members not in attendance:** None

**Other people in attendance:** Zenas Seppala (ZS)

**7:35PM Meeting called to Order**

**Open Session:** Last week TT participated with New Hampshire PBS in the making of a *Windows to the Wild* episode about Dogtown Common. He expects it to be broadcast in the next few months.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by PV and seconded by TT to approve the July 1, 2013 meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

**Ted Tarr's Sunday morning trail walks:**

Ted is concerned with the needed trail clearing and not being able to find more people to participate with that work and lead some of the walks. The walks have been held for decades and he would like them to continue for many more. Also trail clearing is becoming more difficult to keep up with because of the added pace of invasive growth. He is encouraged by the recently formed Cape Ann Trails group. He hopes with them and local committees that trail clearing can improve as well as more visible posting and attention to his trail walks.

The committee also discussed the issues raised in new state surveys. Increased spread of fast growing invasive species, mosquito and tick carried illnesses, and people's limited free time but still wanting to enjoy nature. We need to offer quick 30min to 1 hour walking loops. This may be something we can develop on the newly acquired land on Pigeon Hill. It has some parking on the property and a couple of trail loops through small quarries and woodlands and connects directly to the Pigeon Hill Quarry Association (PHQA) land. TT suggested after the trails are cut back to announce a day in the fall to show the place to the public. Also, before holding the day event, coordinate with the PHQA as to their interest in the area.

**Land Protection Activities:**

PV is coordinating with local students to get GPS data to verify and improve trail locations.

Many pieces of property are now in the BOS office for discussions.

**OSR plan review:**

LN to update Pigeon Cove tennis court info sections 6 and 7 then re-forward then to PV. SC has found several changes in Section 4. These include added identified vernal pools, changes in the invasive species listings, establishment of Scenic Byway through Rockport and the recent update by the State of Massachusetts to *BioMap2*.

<http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap2.htm>. This offers much more information than the original *BioMap* used when our report was written.

**Future Meeting Dates and Topics:**

23 Sept 2013 meeting: Continue Plan update

4 Nov 2013 meeting: Update the "Parcels of High Interest", list top (5-10) actions to pursue

**Motion to Adjourn:**

8:35PM LN motioned to adjourn, PV seconded. Vote passed 4/0.

These minutes prepared by LN