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10/03/2012 Minutes

ARLINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting date: October 3, 2012 Prepared by: Elizabeth Karpati
Present: Ann LeRoy, Chair; Jane Auger, Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Karpati, David White.
Visitor: Tommasina Olson, Candidate for State Representative.
Absent: Teresa deBenedictis, Lisa Decker, Michele Hassler, Patsy Kraemer, Leslie Mayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were approved with several corrections.

Ms. Olson asked about the committee's work and stated that if elected, filing for conservation restrictions on the Mugar land and the Belmont Uplands would be a top priority for her.

Town Day: The booth was organized by Lisa. Having large eye-catching maps was good for bringing people to the booth.

Mill Brook: Our work should be integrated into the upcoming Master Plan for Arlington. Joey explained about "co-occurrence mapping:" counting how many items from a user-developed list of important features are present in different areas, so that areas with more of these features can be given higher priority. This can be done with GIS. Joey presented a draft list of features and asked for more suggestions.

Cooke's Hollow: Previously it was possible to walk from Cooke' Hollow through the Arlington Catholic High School practice field to places like Summer Street. Now ACHS has installed artificial turf and fenced off the whole field, cutting off access. When the Con Com approved installation of the turf, maintaining access was mentioned but nothing was put in writing. This issue needs to be brought before the Selectmen. Joey moved and the committee voted to support the Con Com in efforts to maintain public access through the ACHS field to other publicly owned properties and streets. Ann will co-sign a letter from the Con Com to the Selectmen.

Walking book: The committee working on it is working with Adam Kurowski on mapping about 20 priority open spaces. The book will be accessible on smartphones.

Bikepath signage: Three communities along the bikepath, including Arlington, have received a grant to improve signage, including adding historical signs and signs pointing to the bikepath from major routes. Designing any signage for Mill Brook should await what comes out of this grant.

Other:

Ann will follow up with the Covenant School about what they want to do.
For the November meeting David will invite Steve Makowka about Cooke'a Hollow.
The first meeting on the Master Plan is scheduled for October 17, 7 p.m., at Town Hall.