

LAND USE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2022 7:00 PM

Members Present: Anne Mazar, Barry Iadarola, Carolyn Barthel, Alejna Brugos and Frank Niro
Guests: Kurt Labutti, Laura Bachrach, Gregory (?), Liz and Doug Weeks

The meeting started at 7:00 PM and all present introduced themselves.

The meeting guests were introduced and explained that they are attending the meeting because they are interested in the Land Use activities in Mendon.

Barry made a motion to approve the November 8, 2022 meeting minutes, it was seconded by Carolyn and it was so voted unanimously.

Hike Challenge: Anne updated the Committee on the “Hike Challenge” proposal. Anne reported that Mr. Bill Dakai is willing to help organize the maps. Members made suggestions to update the trail markers, propose trail maps, mark historical sites along the trails and provide a list of challenges for participants to complete in order to earn a trail badge. Discussion was had regarding advertising the Hike Challenge to residents and prepare an email introducing the program. After further discussion the committee agreed that the challenge would start as soon as it is organized in early spring and then be limited during the hunting season to Sundays only for the months of October, November and December.

Applewood Conservation Area: Anne reported to the committee that the Applewood Open Space will be transferred to the town next week. Anne also reported that Mr. Brian Testa, a relative of the former owner, requested that the open space be named after the former owner. The past practice has been not to name the property after the previous owner who sold their property and profited from the sale. The properties have been named after physical or historical features of the property. If the property was donated, the former owner’s names could be used. Since the Testas paid for the border signage, the LUC agreed to purchase a plaque with the inscription, “Joseph & Juna Testa & K-9 Rocco” to be put on a stone bench that the family would buy and the bench could be placed on the open space property. After discussion it was suggested that the name be related to the history of the property. Anne suggested that we contact the Mendon Historical Society to learn more about the history of the property.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Anne reported that we have received a grant for \$46,000.00 for charging stations and three (3) years of software for free in order to charge fees for the use of the stations. The town will only have to pay less than \$3,000 for the EV charging station. Anne reported that this is a Level II charger to be located at the Mendon Senior Center.

34 Milford Street: Anne reported that the developer of 34 Milford Street has donated \$40,000.00 for trail improvements, a parking area and will donate six (6) acres for open space. The plan is to use the funds to build a foot bridge to the pollinator garden.

Meadow Brook Woods: Anne brought up for discussion the use of the cabin located on the property. Dan Byer has volunteered to manage the use of the cabin for public use. Other topics of discussion included rental fees for maintenance, security deposits, Chimney sweep, toilet facilities and insurance.

Barry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM, Alejna seconded the motion and it was so voted unanimously.

Submitted by Frank Niro