

**TOWN OF WINDSOR
MILL BROOK OPEN SPACE STEERING COMMITTEE
MILL BROOK OPEN HOUSE
AUGUST 22, 2018
147 Pigeon Hill Road**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

Present: Hilary Carpenter, Steven Fraysier, Nigel Pepin and Aaron Szotka

Absent: Meg Harvey

Staff Present: Town Manager, Peter Souza; Town Planner, Eric Barz; Building and Facilities Manager, Whit Przech and Assistant Town Planner, Todd Sealy

2. OPEN HOUSE – TOUR OF PROPERTY

The open house started at 5:00 p.m.

Attendees were invited to complete a variety of exercises designed to get input on possible uses of the open space and buildings.

A number of attendees walked the property as well as toured the single family house at 72 Mack Street. Approximately 45 residents attended the event.

Attached are suggestions made by attendees.

The open house concluded at 7:00 p.m.

The next open house is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at 147 Pigeon Hill Road, at the former clubhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Souza
Town Manager

Map Exercise:

- What are your plans for the overgrown shrubbery abutting Scherer Ridge property?
- Strongly prefer no mountain bikes in park - ruining trails, especially on sloped terrain
- Keep land open – only walking – no biking
- Scout projects to help maintain
- Rent out building to groups for parties, etc. (helps to pay for upkeep of land)
- Lease facility as brewery restaurant
- Use building for social events – rent for some revenue
- Walking trails
- Dog park
- Skating rink
- Fix bridges
- Open off leash dog area
- Fire works events
- Camping
- Hiking
- Mill trails
- Fix several bridges
- Permit picnic areas – such as done in Colt State Park, Bristol, RI – small source of revenue for maintenance
- Fix fence along parking lot – east side
- Pavilion to rent out for private parties (revenue)
- Walking paths
- Picnic area
- Use large building for banquets or events
- Winter ice skating on ponds – one for hockey and one for free skate
- Bush hog/mow every 2 years – do not remove trees
- Mow some sections 6x/year – mow almost all area 1x/year to keep the space open
- Plant more trees
- Remove overgrown shrubs and weeds – especially dangerous ones
- Rent out house and buildings
- Use building for small parties / get-togethers

General Comments:

What do you think?

- Consider how to make it accessible by all abilities – parking is near hilly section and no parking near flat area
- Disc Golf. Use the hills incorporated into the natural terrain and woods and appeal to the under 35 crowd
- Picnic area at clubhouse
- Maintain vistas through selective mowing/vegetation management
- Be sure the location is widely publicized and the way to get to Mill Brook is known by all -- promotion
- Butterfly garden to attract pollinators
- Manmade and natural bike trails
- Boy scout camping and service projects
- Keep mix of meadows and forested areas
- Grassland bird/mammal habitat
- Keep invasive plants under control using selective herbicide application
- Access from Mack Street
- Strategically placed benches (for sitting)
- Trim trees
- Clean up existing walkways
- Level some areas out
- Gazebo
- Trail map
- Make sure all the trails are clean and walkable (safe)
- Provide maps for all the trails
- Will the property be opened always? Will there be a time schedule?
- Complete the bridges