

## **DRAFT Minutes for February 15, 2023 Eastham Open Space Committee**

**Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm by Frances Lewis, chair.**

### **Zoom only meeting**

**Attending:** Frances Lewis, Karen Strauss, Joanna Buffington, Kait Logan, Rob Young

**Absent:** Saul Fisher (Zoom connection issues)

**Additional Attendees:** **Keith Johnson (Conservation Agent), Paul Lagg (Town Planner), and Linda Dorflinger**

**Minutes from January 18, 2023** approved unanimously with minor changes. Karen moved and Joanna seconded.

### **Sandy Meadow**

Brief discussion following up on a site visit to Sandy Meadow on 2/5/2023 by several committee members along with Keith Johnson and Nicole Paine. Discussion of extension of ADA trail and a reconsideration of when to deploy interpretative signs. Committee is considering a fall CPA application to increase the ADA trail with work to be done potentially by DPW staff with help from Americorps. Suggestion was made that the trail project proposal be made as an extension of the existing interpretative sign project.

Sandy Meadow discussion was continued later in the meeting after Paul Lagg joined. There was a brief discussion about the quotes and specs for printing the interpretative signs and a continue discussion about the best way to put forth the CPA application. Paul agreed that it would be best to put forth the CPA proposal as an extension of the current interpretative project.

### **Conservation Restrictions**

Keith Johnson gave an update on the status of Conservation Restriction applications. Town Counsel has reported that the CRs were sent to the state. Keith will follow up to ensure that state has indeed received these filings.

### **Procedures for use of Conservation Fund**

Kait reported that significant work has been done on a draft but yet ready for committee discussion. Will be ready for next meeting

### **OSRP – Land Management: Update**

Town staff is working on updating OSRP, Joanna is engaged with Shana on section 5. Karen to send Mass Mapper GIS map links with CR data and with protected open space data to Joanna. Shana has also requested that we be mindful of opportunities to take landscape photos of Eastham open space during the year for use in the final OSRP document.

Land Stewardship planning: Shana has contacted the Cape Compact, Mass Audubon, and Mass Woodlands seeking proposals to develop land stewardship plans.

### **Social Media Use by Committee**

No update. Saul shared some wildlife photos with Kait. Discussed doing a posting on coyote mating season and Kait is now looking for coyote photos.

### **Land Stewardship / Use of Conservation Areas**

Committee discussed a plan identify issues at Wiley Park and engage in a public process to address these issues through changes to the Conservation Commission Conservation Area Regulations and public education. Disturbed areas and unauthorized openings to ponds will quickly managed by the installation of snow fencing and education signage in a process led by the Conservation and Natural Resources departments with Conservation Commission administrative reviews.

A timeline was established to complete this process over the next several months, with several public listening sessions, a joint work session with the Conservation Commission, and potentially a Concom public hearing in May to receive final public input and adopt new regulations. The goal is to have new regulations and other elements in place by June 15<sup>th</sup> to correspond with the start of the town's summer policy prohibiting dogs on public beaches.

The committee authorized a work group of Kait and Rob to seek input from town departments and committees on the known issues and preliminary draft regulation changes before the next OSC meeting and to notify Paul Lagg, Aimee Eckman, and Jacqui Beebe that this process is underway. Kait and Rob will also liaise with the Eastham Dog Owners group leadership for a site visit to Wiley Park and discussion. Ahead of the next OSC meeting, the work group will draft a revised document with known issues and suggested regulation changes based on the input received.

### **Earth Day Events**

Continued discussion of possible Earth Day events. Kids walk with a simple activity such as nature bingo or a scavenger hunt and which conservation areas for the program. Also discussed whether ECF would be looking for additional participants in their annual marsh clean-up, a forest committee walk and talk, and whether the rec/beach department would be having a beach clean-up. Looking for ways that we might be able to bundle of the town's Earth Day activities into one flyer. Kait to talk to Christine. Karen to check with Lauren (cc Kait). Joanna to follow-up with ECF.

### **Knotweed Test Site**

Did not discuss.

### **Old and New Business**

Nothing discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm

**Next Meeting Date:** March 15, 2023 via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,