

Meeting Held March 15th 2023

Open Space Committee

In Attendance: Frances Lewis, Karen Strauss, Joanna Buffington, Kait Logan, Robert Young,

Town Representative: Keith Johnson

Absent: Saul Fisher

Meeting called to order 3/15/2023 at 2:00PM Hybrid Model

Approved minutes of meeting dated February 15th, 2023

OSRP-Land Management Update: Frances reported that work is progressing in-house. We should have some information by the beginning of April. At which time we can begin the writing process. Joanna has been working on chapter 5 aspect of the process as well. She reported that she continues to work with Shanna. Goal is to combine newly found information with that which already exists on assessor's records. Tough process as to the nature of different ownership of private and public lands.

Land Stewardship: Shana came back with one bid out of 3 sent out to complete the work and it was to expensive at \$185K. The work will now be done in-house. Organizational meeting to be set soon.

Procedures for Conservation Funds: It was decided to table discussion until both Karen and Kait could work additionally to present the information at hand.

Conservation Areas: Goals were discussed to get clearer guidelines in place to address the increased use and overuse of Wiley Park and subsequent deterioration of certain areas. Rob and Kait submitted the emails sent to different stakeholders for their observations and suggestions to help rectify further damage and restoration of areas. It was also noted that a walkthrough was held with the EDOA representatives to discuss the areas in question and possible ways to restore and protect. It was also noted that signage and enforcement of restrictions including Kayak, SUP, Bikes, and other areas be put in place. Karen brought up the need for funds to create and install signage. Keith is looking into town funds. Joanna mentioned possible CPA funding. Ed Danials of EDOA also offered funding available from his organization. The goal for signs is June 15th.

*Next steps are community listening sessions to be held in June co-hosted by Open Space and COSCOM. One meeting to be live and another Zoom. In addition, the ability to write into the group by email and snail mail is to be offered. Notification to be done on social media and Town Posts. A sub-Committee was set up to create a presentation prior to listening sessions consisting of, Karen Strauss, Keith Johnson, and Rob Young.

Conservation Restrictions: The Town Board has signed off on changes. Next step they go to the State Level. Keith will follow this. Once returned the next steps can follow.

Wiley Park Run-off: This has been an ongoing problem and it was decided to meet with the rec Dept. and DPA to discuss solutions. Keith recommended reaching out to APCC for grant monies combined with CPA to create a permanent solution of relandscaping and creating a better access flow to beach. Keith to follow up.

Earth Day: Town Rec Dept and DPA coordination of a beach clean up including marsh area to be held on EARTH DAY. All are welcome, Joanna to secure details.

Knotweed work at Library: Permission has been granted to do an additional test site to address the Knotweed at the Town Library. Frances also reported on the installation of Goats to work on the infestation of Poison Ivy and Knotweed on adjacent areas at Library.

New Business: Kait brought to our attention the increase of fungus on Scrub Pines and the concern we should have for the future.

No other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Rob Young