

Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes: March 16, 2022 (Approved 4/20/22)

In attendance (ZOOM): Frances Lewis, Joanna Buffington, Rob Young, Peter Wade, Karen Strauss, Saul Fisher; Chair Lewis opened the ZOOM meeting @ 3:03 pm with roll call.

Minutes of February meeting postponed.

Conservation Fund (CF)

- KS shared draft summary. Discussion to shorten, highlight possibilities other than acquisition, members to send KS any other edits/comments and she will revise and send, with letters of support, to Select Board and Finance Committee, plus paragraph summary for warrant.
- KS will connect with Moderator Kerry, re procedure for the April 21 (6-8 pm) pre-town meeting public session on warrant articles.
- Additional outreach/education to be done closer to May 2 TM, with social media (Facebook, Instagram), a print flyer (library, other places to hand out). KS shared sample shorts to promote why open space is valuable: wood cock habitat (Sandy Meadow, Ft Hill), will work on others (e.g., peepers, herring run, climate change).
- FL to check into time frame for letter to editors (P. Independent, Cape Codder)

Land Management Plans (LMPs)/ Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)

- FL shared that she and JB met with J. Beebe, Shana Brogan, and DPW/DNR members Silvio Genao, Nicole Paine and Mike O'Connor on Monday to discuss both of these.
- The LMPs developed by OSC are useful, but DPW/DNR wants more formal plan similar to Sandy Meadow that is approved at State level for management that will help with potential grants, AmeriCorps projects, timing etc.
- \$30,000 has been requested to fund a consultant position to develop these plans; discussion that same consultant could be focal person for updating the OSRP — funding would be available after July 1. Shana to work on the proposal for said consultant. FL will request that representatives from OSC be included in review/selection process.
- KS reminds us that Eastham needs updated surveys for threatened species, and this should be either included as work for the above consultant, or as a separate proposal that should be funded. KS will send wording to FL to pass on to Shana.
- DPW/DNR staff visit all main properties after storms usually to assess damage; request that they include OSC reps in this where possible, and they agreed it would be good to join the OSC member on a walking review of each of the priority parcels in the upcoming weeks.

Sandy Meadow

- Rob spent many hours with Bob C. at Sandy Meadow recently, and will be putting together mock ups for the educational components of the CPA funded project and present this back to OSC this spring for review.

Higgins

- Sign design submitted a year ago — re-visited given main entry abuts private property — all agreed that a smaller sign is warranted, given lack of parking and private property. FL and JB will meet to determine best size/design for this and get back with OSC for approval before sending to Nicole Paine, who will get this to a designer and production.
- Smaller no motor vehicle signs still to be used on the sides by gravel pit and east ends.
- KS will share sign recommendations from a recent zoom session.

Wiley Park

- SF reports that Henry Lind will be sending planting plan for Conservation Commission approval at their May 7 meeting.

Old Business

JB shared updated private parcel priority land spreadsheet with discussion on including additional parcels that previously were excluded due to having houses on them. KS pointed out the importance of looking at other layers of value, something that could be facilitated by the work that may be done by a Land Management consultant (as discussed earlier) and with updated surveys for rare plants/species. The topic of Conservation Restrictions (CRs) as a tool needs further exploration and explanation.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2022 still ZOOM (JB will chair). 3:00.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Joanna Buffington