

Open Space Committee  
Meeting for Minutes April 26, 2023

In attendance: Frances Lewis, Joanna Buffington, Linda Dorflinger, Saul Fisher, Kait Logan Karen Strauss, Rob Young.

Hybrid meeting called to order at 3:00  
Frances welcomed our new member Linda Dorflinger

**Approve Minutes:**

March Minutes put to a subsequent meeting.

**OSRP: Land Management Plan Update:**

There does not appear to be money in the budget for a consultant for Land Management planning. OSC will likely need to take responsibility for that project with Town staff assistance.  
No update on OSRP.

**Conservation Restrictions:**

We have a long list of CR's that have been turned in to the State and not returned. Keith Johnson was involved in the CR problem and realized that the State hadn't followed through. Keith's plan was to problem solve what the difficulties were and planned to take responsibility to work with the State on follow through.

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

In order to prepare for our meeting with the Conservation Commission regarding conservation issues in Wiley Park and Nickerson Conservation area, the remainder of the meeting focused on a very constructive conversation on major points of consensus. Below is a listing of these major points of agreement amongst our Committee and those attending the workshops.

- one of our primary goals is to establish a working and co-operative relationship with the members of EDOA so that they become partners in protecting the habitat
- EDOA can be of assistance by establishing trainings for dog owners on managing off leash behavior programs
- no new entrances -openings to Great Ponds without previously obtained written permission from Cons Com.
- no bike riding on trails or boat launching other than designated areas
- owners cleanup after dogs
- dog owners to follow leashing rules
- limited to 3 dogs per walker
- a rule to be enforceable must be a regulation
- discussions about the length of a leash that is appropriate
  - concern about managing pack behavior (when there are too many unleashed dogs) what regulations are needed here
- EDOA has volunteered to work on training and education for dog owners. They could be asked to develop dog owner etiquette guidelines for walking on the trails, off leash voice control and educate their members and park visitors.
- Photos at selected sensitive sites to document activity in the area.
- Proposed regulations are open to feedback and discussion

- Help our population of visitors understand the behaviors that protect our fragile habitat.
- develop a team monitoring program that may include dog owners with conservation partners to assure that our program is working to protect the environment
- using photos to record damage or areas of concern as well any important incident that may arise
- Develop and educational program to help monitors learn the warning signs that indicate the environment is being threatened
- the importance of defining and establishing voice control over the unleashed dog and the need for owner education

· Signage: It will be important to have signs installed, before the summer season goes into full swing, at each of the entrances to the park so that guests become aware of what is transpiring at Wiley.

### **Wiley Park Parking Lot Run Off**

Need input from Keith Johnson re discussion of status of issue with DPW and assistance/information from APCC.

### **Earth Day Events**

Review of Earth Day activities in Eastham. 800 pounds of trash picked up this year. Over a 5 year period, 3 tons of trash, including tires, have been picked up in the marshes

### **Knotweed:**

Our Knotweed project using 1/4" mesh has been established at the Library in Eastham but not yet on the bike trail.

### **Social Media Update**

Currently 200 followers.

### **Higgins Property Dedication**

Joanna will contact Higgins family to set date for grand opening of the Higgins Property during the summer, probably late July or August.

### **Old and New Business**

Karen reported that Paul Lagg that the quotes for the new signage including preferred 24" by 72" design, came in under budget. The quote is good for 90 days from April 12<sup>th</sup>. Tasks left to do include finishing the map, choosing an aerial drone shot, refining some printing specs. We need to set up a meeting at Library to complete the project.

Next meeting date: May 17, 2023 at 3:00.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40

Respectfully submitted

Saul Fisher Temporary Scribe