

**Open Space Committee (OSC)**  
**Town of Eastham**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 18, 2022- Hybrid Meeting**

Members Present: Joanna Buffington, Saul Fisher, Frances Lewis (Chair), Kait Logan, Karen Strauss, Peter Wade, Rob Young

Members Absent: none

Town Staff Present: Paul Lagg, Town Planner; Keith Johnson, Conservation Agent

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.
2. CONSERVATION FUND: The committee discussed the Conservation Fund article which failed at Town Meeting. Members felt that, although the Select Board and the Town Administrator opposed the article, the campaign raised their awareness of the important issues that the Conservation Fund was trying to address. Karen suggested that the Committee work on producing and circulating a manifesto that quantifies the financial and economic benefits for the town that result from conservation and environmental protection. Kait suggested developing a written protocol for how best to proceed when priority parcels become available.
3. MEETING WITH THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST: The committee discussed Joanna's draft agenda for the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as well as the draft evaluation criteria for open space purchases. Paul will work with the Affordable Housing Trust to come up with a similar list of criteria for parcels suitable for housing. Paul pointed out that the town will soon be undertaking an update to the Long-Range Plan, which will also have recommendations for land use.
4. MINUTES: The draft minutes for the April 20, 2022 meeting were discussed, amended, and approved as amended. 7-0.
5. CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS ON TOWN OWNED PARCELS: The committee asked Keith Johnson for help in getting the blanket C.R. for seven properties recorded at the Registry of Deeds, as required by Land Bank and CPA law. The blanket C.R. was prepared by Mark Robinson at least a year ago and has been submitted to Town Counsel for review, where it has lingered for several months. Peter has made multiple requests to Jacqui to help move it along, to no avail.
6. HIGGINS PROPERTY SIGN UPDATE: Nicole Paine from the Natural Resources Dept. is working on resolving the final details for the sign and getting it installed. Paul Lagg had some ideas about how best to incorporate a QR Code and a trail map and will work with Nicole to help finalize.

7. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN MEETING UPDATE: Frances met with Lauren Barker and expressed the need for more help from town staff in order to reach several of the goals in the Strategic Plan.
8. WILEY PARK ISSUES: Frances and Saul reported that 15 bayberrys and 5 scrub oaks were planted and snow fencing was installed by volunteers with help from the Natural Resources Dept.. Signage will be installed to explain to the public what was done and why. A discussion followed about how best to protect the park from further degradation due to its intense use as a dog walking destination. Joanna suggested a meeting with the Eastham Dog Walkers Association, and Paul opined that the OSRP could address the issue as well. Rob pointed out that some of the access paths to the pond are being used by the general public (non dog walkers), and secondary beaches are being created, so dogs are not the only problem facing Wiley Park. It was agreed that better signage needs to be installed, particularly at the Herring Brook Road entrance, preferably before summer, advising people of what is and is not allowed in the park. Karen wondered if the dog activity could be moved to another location or locations in the park, away from the ponds.
9. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS: Frances announced that Shana has prepared a Scope of Services document for hiring a consultant to help with the OSRP and the Land Management Plan. Frances and Joanna reviewed it and approved. Kait and others spoke about the need to publicize the mission and work of the OSC, so that the committee is recognized and taken seriously by the public as well as the town administration.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Wade,  
Acting Clerk