

Open Space Committee (OSC)
Town of Eastham
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 20, 2022- ZOOM only meeting

Members Present: Joanna Buffington, Saul Fisher, Frances Lewis (Chair), Kait Logan, Karen Strauss, 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. The May minutes were approved 6-0.
3. A discussion from the minutes re the holdup for several years on recording CR'S for seven town properties at the Registry of Deeds. Keith Johnson had not been able to move the process forward. Paul Lagg will talk to Jacqui Beebe about this problem. Currently these CR'S are with Town Counsel.
4. Annual Committee Organizational Vote: Frances Lewis to continue as Chair and Joanna Buffington to continue as Vice Chair. Vote 6-0.
5. Protocol for Purchasing Land outside of CPA Timeline tabled since Select Board member Aimee Eckman was not present.
6. Sandy Meadow – Informational Signs: Karen will give Rob more information and edits on Species sign and photos with better resolution. Saul will connect with Rob on photos needed. Frances will resend information on Signs and information update from Bob Cook on important concepts and important species for Sandy Meadow. When content of signs is finalized, they will be sent to vendor for a professional design, formatting and editing.
7. Social Media Use by Committee: Kait Logan has initiated a social media outreach project for the committee. She shared the Instagram account she created as a pilot program for social media outreach on Instagram, Instagram Stories and Facebook. She plans weekly posts highlighting information and seasonal photos of Eastham's open natural areas. OSC members will submit pictures and information to build up an inventory for Kait to use.
8. Wiley Park Signage: Saul reported that new explanatory signs written by OSC and Forestry Com. were posted explaining the fencing at the revegetation area. Karen raised concerns that new paths to the water were being created and that the fencing did not protect the pond. RE this issue, Keith Johnson will visit site for a review and compliance with the fencing plan submitted to the Conservation Commission. Karen said that further social paths, particularly leading to the pond should be discouraged.

There was a discussion on the negative environmental impact of high dog traffic at Wiley Park and possible responses. Decision to explain the situation at an upcoming OSC meeting to the Select Board members Jamie Dimitri and Aimee Eckman and request their involvement in crafting a policy solution with clearer rules to the over usage problem at Wiley Park that involves the the various stakeholders .

For further educational outreach, Karen suggested to add the locations of the current educational signs at Wiley Park onto the trail map of the park. Saul and Kait will map the locations of these signs and report back.

9. Meeting with Affordable Housing Followup: Joanna met with the group (Affordable Housing and town staff) working on creating a planning template to use for making land use choices and choosing priority parcels for conservation, affordable housing, and municipal needs. The APCC framework identifying housing production and natural resources is being used as a starting reference point. Karen noted that the framework is incomplete, neglecting climate change, sea rise, local wetlands bylaws and she has sent her comments to the APCC.

The meeting discussed the importance of the three Chapter 61 parcels in Town for conservation and possible affordable housing. Sandy Meadow is at risk since it is not protected by a CR, particularly, the 3.3 wooded area across the road. We need to continue our efforts to educate the Town on its environmental importance: re the educational signage and walks and talks to build town support for the permanent protection of Sandy Meadow.

Karen brought up that the Waste Water Com. was looking at Ballwic Place to clear cut 5 acres for a water recharge area. The OSC wants disturbed sites to be evaluated first. The MAAC lecture on Economic Value of conservation Land will give helpful information for the argument of the value of conserved land.

Frances will meet Aug 16th, 2022 with the Educational Outreach Committee.

10. HIGGINS PROPERTY SIGN UPDATE: Signs are complete. Before the sign are installed, Paul Lagg will clarify access issues to the property from the west.

11. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Frances announced that Shana is preparing a Scope of Services document for hiring a consultant to help with the OSRP and the Land Management Plan. Frances and Joanna will represent OSC for this project. Vote 4-0 to allow Frances to approved completed Scope of Services document.

Keith Johnson will followup on run-off problem at parking lot at Wiley Park.

Next meeting will be Aug 17 or 24th, checking with other members.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Lewis
Acting Clerk