

Open Space Committee

October 18, 2023 (Minutes Approved 7-0 at 11/15/23 meeting)

In attendance: Joanna Buffington, Kait Logan, Linda Dorflinger, Saul Fisher (Zoom), Karen Strauss (Zoom);
Staff: Hilary Greenberg-Lemos (Zoom), Alex Bates (Zoom)

Absent: Frances Lewis, Rob Young,

Vice Chair Buffington opened meeting at 3:00

Minutes of August 30, 2023 approved (5-0).

OSRP

JB shared that Shana has sent draft of Section 5 to Frances, Joanna and Rec folks and reports working on Section 4. Content generally good, but document will need major editing for brevity/ clarity at later point; Awaiting next meeting

CRs on Town owned OS

KS shared that the CR documents were sent back from state and will be on Conservation Commission's Oct 24 meeting for approval and notarized signatures. HG-L added that the document will then go to the Select Board and ECF for signatures before being sent back as final to the State for filing. Eastham's Town Counsel has already weighed in.

Stewardship

Sandy Meadow

AB reported that DNR has submitted request for AmeriCorps to continue work cutting in The Bowl - but this is not likely to happen until at least January.

ADA Trail Work/CPA application: AB unearthed 2012 CPA application, which KS shared. KS is drafting new CPA application using some of this information and will share with OSC members by end of next week. Cost estimates and other specifics that are not yet available can be submitted after the core application, which is due by 4 pm Nov 1. Given this deadline, OSC members will respond individually back to KS before Nov 1 with any edits. Vote 5-0 for KS to submit initial application by Nov 1. The application can be amended and completing documents submitted subsequent to OSC November meeting.

KS and RY met recently to work on final sign design for the Bowl and Overlook; KL has scheduled drone operator to meet RY Friday 10/27 to execute photos. Drone funding to be billed to CPA account. KS asks Alex to get estimate for proof prints in addition to final signs. Trailhead sign will be delayed until ADA trail and distances can be included on map.

Wiley Park

Monitoring completed over summer - Mike H (Cons Com) and Ed (EDOA) have data; Cons Com will review at November 14 meeting during discussion of regulations for conservation land. KS will notify EDOA, Select Board and Town Manager of these plans. KS shares that the Rec Departments' Beach maintenance plan is also due for renewal/review by Cons Com.

Overall - a comprehensive Land Management Plan (LMP) for Wiley Park is a top priority for OSC, but a number of management projects are needed without waiting for this. There is money in the Land Stewardship Account that was considered for funding earlier RFP.

Major items that need action:

- 1) AB will check back with Shana regarding an RFP for searching for outside consultant to create a comprehensive LMP. OSC does not believe this can be accomplished in-house in a timely manner.
- 2) Signs - all have agreed that signage for things like "no boats or bikes" on trails and more visible entry

rules and regulations are needed - AB and KS will continue to work with Town Manager on possible funding sources to get signs designed and installed (see below)

- 3) Drainage from parking area down to pond - this continues to be a problem and needs addressing, with emergency vehicle access considered (though part of larger comprehensive plan) —
- 4) Restoration of areas of pond front damage from multiple areas of “unofficial” access
- 5) Additional fencing and restoration near the confluence of trails where 1651 project has been a success — 1651 plans for additional restoration would be most welcome

Funding:

Grants: APCC (restoration of pond front/drainage issues, boat landings); State grants - probably need completed OSRP to qualify

Partners: 1651 Forest (donation based); EDOA (member and donation based); Saul to share back with 1651 committee, JB will attend EDOA meeting and introduce this idea

Town funding: KS recommends (OSC members in attendance agree) asking Town to add funds (\$50,000 or more) to the existing Conservation Fund - this would have to be on the Town Meeting warrant - all agree that the emphasis on use of these funds is taking care of the land we have, such as these projects in Wiley Park — and not on new land acquisition.

CPA Funding: Open Space and Active Rec categories could be tapped for some joint projects that are not standard “maintenance” projects — actual restoration and redesign of entry areas and work may well qualify for CPA funds and should be considered for FY 2025 (too late for FY 2024 round).

KL raised idea of the organization “Sustainable Cape” for ideas and possible assistance.

Higgins Conservation Area

Parking for access on Town Land - idea of 2 spaces on Cross Cart Way needs to be reviewed on-site by DPW/DNR. KL will arrange a meet up for review, including Paul Higgins, DPW rep, Alex. Also include new animal control/DNR Stephanie Sykes

Sign and other vandalization of property on west end - HG-L to follow up with with Jacqui.

CPA monitoring project - the SITE VISIT SUMMARY monitoring form shared by AB was reviewed and approved (5-0) to move forward. LD will arrange next step with AB to see what software might work best for project and how to use the CPA funds available to get this implemented. AB left meeting about 4:00.

Outreach/Education

KL shared 1 page flyer for “Friends of Open Space” - JB suggested taking out a few words to simplify - all agreed and voted (5-0) to approve this for use on Social Media and in conjunction with the planned stewardship monitoring form with AB being the main contact. This will be used for any upcoming events. (we didn’t discuss printing/funding this....but we should have hard copies for events).

Discussion of expanded informational brochure, including identification of invasives, updated Trail maps needed; KL reminds that we already have much of this information (invasives, but not trail updates) put together for in-house LMPs. JB suggests update of trail maps and info would be a great project for an AmeriCorps volunteer. HG-L will be working with AB to submit an application for next round (due this winter, for volunteers who will start next August) — this is one of many possible projects.

KS pointed out that the OS portion of town website is not up to date; work on updating website should happen once some of these projects have been finalized and implementation begun.

Next Meeting: 11/15/23 3:00. Meeting adjourned 4:19 pm; Respectfully Submitted, J Buffington