

**Town of Harvard
Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2020**

Attendees

Peter Dorward, Chair
Dan Daly
Jim Lee
Joanne Crystoff
Liz Allard
Gwen Leonard
Rich Maiore

Old Business

Approved Minutes from 7/2/2020 meeting
Unanimous vote: All present voted “yes.”

Discussed if a new meeting time was possible. After discussion, determined Peter would poll the committee for availability.

Discussed the Committee’s charter from Select Board (SB)

There was a question if SB intent is for OSC oversee maintenance of space.
Maiore clarified that SB intent is NOT for OSC to oversee maintenance of space/land rather simply the identification and recommendations of potential land for active recreation or open space conservation.

Peter provided an update on Assessors database dump of property list .It’s a work in progress. Once complete it will be much easier and effective way to identify property.

New Business

Dan shared the Park & Rec prerequisite criteria/active recreation evaluation tool. Broadly they are:

- Parcel size 3 acre minimum
- Configure
- Slope and topology

Open Space Tool—criteria, mapping and scoring.

Peter shared criteria for open space derived from the 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Broadly, agricultural preservation, proximity, ecological significance, water/wetland protection and potentially parcel size. The tool would evaluate all open space in Harvard using these criteria, and then categorize each parcel of open space as high priority, priority or low priority

for protection. Once complete the scoring matrix will be an automated tool to enable proactive screening of open space.

A second evaluation matrix is proposed for use when a parcel comes on the market. This second matrix is a more comprehensive set of criteria including some subjective criteria that cannot be automated, and will be used to score it against other protected land in town. All agreed this will be a huge step forward for the town.

Peter then shared map of all open space in Harvard except for town owned land and churches. Peter noted the map has gaps. He'll work to revise/update based on criteria. The committee discussed whether to include Devens land as part of our scope. The committee agreed not to include Devens in the evaluation.

Lee made motion to adjourn the meeting. Daly seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn. 9:59 am.

Next meeting: Thursday October 1, 2020. 9:00 am est.

Minutes by Rich Maiore