

Minutes of Open Space Committee (OSC)  
June 9 2022

Members present: Paul Cohen, Frank Carlson, Brian Cook, Peter Dorward, Liz Allard, Chris Ryan, Dan Daly, Linda Dwight

Approve minutes of May 12, 2022. Motion to approve by Paul C. 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Lee. Approved unanimously (Dan and Linda not yet joined meeting)

Old business:

Update of Open Space Protection (Jim)

Report that funds, initially requested for Still River Woods (SRW), were approved by ATM to be transferred to the Conservation Fund. Also after ATM a request by individual to purchase the parcel with the help of HCT and Town was fielded by Jim and determined to be not sufficient to cover the cost of acquisition.

CHP APR. MDAR has returned their latest version of the trail easement language and has suggested that bikes and horses be left out of the approved uses, and suggested easement widths. These widths will be reviewed and commented on by HCT representative and returned to MDAR for approval

Also MDAR has suggested that the closing on the purchase will likely be in spring/summer 2023, but that funds should be approved by end of 2022.

Active Rec discussion:

Dan had review of ATM article that requested \$50K for field study. Asked FinCom about use and it was suggested that it can only be used after a parcel is identified by OSC. These funds are good for 5 years.

Linda suggested, based on the sentiment at ATM, that OSC craft a letter to owners of potential Rec site parcels. Discussion about what is asked in the letter and who it is sent to followed.

Linda volunteered, with help of Dan and Paul to craft a letter to landowners, to be reviewed at next OSC meeting (July ?)

Brian and Chris described an alternative way to obtain land for Active Rec, by way of the new proposed "Open Space by-Law" being considered by planning board. OSC should work with Planning board to see how the mechanics of that by-law would work.

Next meeting, July 14<sup>th</sup>, chaired by Paul, OSC will review draft letter to landowners.

Liz reviewed OSRP survey response. So far 256 respondents. Good number overall but OSC is aiming for 400+ responses. Committee reviewed how to get the word out about survey.

Peter reviewed sections of OSRP that need to be updated and asked for members to volunteer. Paul, Linda, and Dan to review the Active Rec section which will be moved to its own section from the "scenic" section where it was last version

Peter reviewed the proposed updates to map sections. Peter will fine tune and add new data.

Group discussed if we should include lists of potential Active Rec properties in the report. It was thought that this would be fine if it is a list such as the “top 25 identified” properties.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 am.

Submitted by J. Lee