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MINUTES

Open Space Committee
Sept 12th, 2018, 7:00 pm
Weymouth Town Hall
3rd Floor Conference Room
75 Middle Street, 3rd Floor
Weymouth, MA 02189

Members Present: Andrew Hultin, Joe Haddock, Dave Henley, Cate Parsley, Kathy Swain

Member Absent: Tim Townsell, Kate Marshall, Karen Graham

Recording Secretary: Kathy Swain

Andrew Hultin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Approval of minutes

The chair requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting.
Motion to Approve- Dave; Second Kathy; Vote Unanimous

2. Dave Henley asked the chair if there is any way there could be a trail From Negus Park to Gifford Park officially recognized. There are many trails that exist up there now. Andrew stated that it is a little tricky because it abuts the water supply. He will investigate it further

3. Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Presentation

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Presentation- Andrew presented a slide presentation to provide and overview of the town's OSRP and the process to update it for 2020. The current plan was developed in 2010 and approved in January 2013. Andrew discussed what needs to be done to update the plan. The town administration will begin this process to update this fall. They hope to have update completed by fall of 2020. The plan to update follows the state's OSRP workbook which in on the state's website. It is used as a guide to update the plan. It explain which areas need to be updated and the public participation process. We do not have a 5-year action plan we have a 7-year action plan. Some towns write their own OSRP plan. Some communities use outside organizations and some use Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The town is going to evaluate the need to bring in outside help, consultant? The town plans to break down the plan and which sections apply to each department and how much work will be involved. Kathy Swain asked how costly this is. Andrew responded that the MAPC

writes entire plan for between 30,000 to 60,000. Kathy Swain wondered if CPA funds could be used from, Andrew responded yes. Andrew stated that they might just have an outside group work with different sections. An example would be to bring in an outside group to facilitate the public participation process. Dave Henley stated that outside help could also bring the experience they have from working with other towns. They could make recommendations such as a bike path or something. Kathy Swain felt that using an outside group affords the opportunity or having someone looking from the outside in as compared to us looking only from the inside out. Joe Haddock said he had limited experience with this but felt since the town only had one year to do the project that hiring outside group help might expedite the project. Joe asked if they had outside help when they wrote the first one. Andrew answered that the town did not on the first plan and in hindsight some people who participated felt they wish they had. Andrew was not there for the writing of the first document. Outreach for the plan might involve some of the open space committee. The town wants to reach out to as many groups as possible

4. Bradford Torrey Bird Sanctuary

Andrew presented a map of the area. Bristol Brothers through mitigation has agreed to clear trail, provide trail heads and mark the trails. The work has not started yet. There are many informal entrances that will allow the residence (apartments) who abut the property to access. There is going to be an entrance for the public with parking on Rt. 18. The DOT will install a gravel parking lot with about 4 to 6 spaces. That part of the project is about a year out. There is another entrance behind the high school that might be accessible during the weekends when school is not in session. Members of the committee asked Andrew if he could send out the map of the area to the committee members. Andrew stated that it is between 130 to 150 acres, he was not actually sure.

5. Woodbine Property Overview

This is a small parcel right on Whitman's Pond. The Whitman's Pond Association was a strong advocate for acquiring the property. The Mayor wanted to explore the opportunity for an easement out to Washington St. It is a very small parcel. The conservation restriction does not allow any additional parking. The town would clear up the entrance and install a trailhead. Dave Henley asked if we could make this trail circular. Andrew said that is a possibility. Dave had walked the property and wondered whether you could clear some of the underbrush, so you can see out to the pond. Kathy Swain asked if you could extend the trail to the right, but Andrew felt it might be too steep. Discussion continued the idea of the easement to Washington St. Andrew had talked to Conservation and they had concerns about the clearing of vegetation that had been planted as a buffer between the housing and the pond. Andrew noted that the Massachusetts Interactive Property Map is very user friendly and a great way to look up properties. The island next to this property also had a conservation restriction put on it. Members of the committee felt it would be better to try and loop the trail than develop an easement.

6. Recreational Trails Grant Update

The town submitted and was approved for a trail improvement grant to formal connect Great Esker Park to Abigail Adams Park. This will allow for the installation of a crosswalk

and push button cross light on Rt. 3 A. It also covers the cost of a paved entrance parking lot at Rt. 3A entrance and a few new benches and trailhead markers. The property is owned by Mass DOT.

7. Community Comment

There were no comments from community members

8. Next meeting will be October 10, 2018

9. Motion to adjourn made by Andrew, second by Joe, voted unanimously

Approved:



Andrew Hultin, Chair

Date 10/10/2018