

***Town of Weymouth
Massachusetts***

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MINUTES

Open Space Committee
Oct 10th, 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, Karen Graham, Kate Marshal

Member Absent: none

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- Karen; Vote Unanimous

2. Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

There has been a decision made to bring in outside help to facilitate the update. Andrew has been presenting to other groups in town about the plan. It is the same presentation he presented to the committee last meeting. The town is now looking at options of which group to hire. Karen Graham asked how involved the Open Space Committee will be in this process. Andrew stated there will be several groups involved and at some point, an online survey. Dave asked which groups in town will be involved, Planning, Conservation and us? Andrew stated that they are still in the process of figuring that out. The committee will be involved more with the process than writing the plan itself. Kate Marshall stated she imagined there will be a general meeting with the public that will be hosted by the consultant. Then the consultants will meet with staff and in the end do it again to review what they have developed from the input. Kate said to keep in mind this is only an update and the Commonwealth has a workbook that must be followed. Karen Graham stated that at looking at the plan it really needs updating. Kate asked if the committee felt it was user friendly? Karen felt it could be improved. Cate Parsley felt that she needs to look at it with a different eye rather than just reviewing it. Kathy Swain asked if when looking for a group would you reach out to other communities to inquire which group they used and were they happy with the results?

Andrew felt that was something they could do. Cate Parsley asked who is the int person for this project. Andrew stated they have a small working group, Andrew Hultin, Bob Luongo, Mary Ellen Schloss, Kate Marshall and Steve Reilly.

3. Bradford Torrey Bird Sanctuary Update

Andrew has a meeting tomorrow with Bristol to provide them with information, so they may begin the project. Dave suggested that a color-coded trail would be the way to go. Joe asked if they still are on for the fall, Andrew stated hopefully. They are still waiting to hear back from the high school to see if they wanted a trail head marker behind the high school. A trail is used now by the students who live in Tall Oaks to get to school. Cate Parsley asked if they going to follow the same design as Osprey Outlook for the trailheads? Andrew stated yes but a different theme color.

4. Woodbine Rd Update

Andrew did pass on our recommendations to the mayor. The option of having an easement going through has been taking off the table. The idea of a loop is not feasible. However, there is an existing path that will take you to the top and maybe be putting a bench at the top. Andrew is meeting with DPW to get a timeline of when the work can be done. Dave asked will there be any connection with the island, kayak launch? There is a beach a little further down the street that a kayak can be launched so there would be no kayak launch on the Woodbine property. (Conservation Restriction)

5. Recreational Trails Grant Overview

Andrew passed out a handout with the current conditions of the 3A trailhead and the proposed changes. The plan will formalize the parking, add a concrete pad with a bike rack and bench on it. There is also a proposed crosswalk to connect the trail to the Abigail Adams Park. Smaller components are other trailheads markers and two new benches. Dave made a comment of where the picnic table could be located. Rather than putting it facing the street could it be put in an area he identified that faced the water. Andrew stated that area is a kind of tough area and it owned by the MA DOT. Cate Parsley asked if there will be any signage that will indicate the trail does continue across the street. Andrew answered yes. Dave asked about timeline. Andrew answered that it has to be done by 2020 and that the Mayor would like to speak to other groups that could be involved before finalizing the plan. There was discussion of getting groups involved with clean up around the town. Kate Marshall wondered whether we could get the sports groups involved. Karen Graham commented that all the students have to get their service hours in. Kathy Swain commented community service by high school teams has been done in other communities. Andrew said the town each year has a clean-up day and maybe some of these properties could be listed. Cate Parsley commented that she agreed that they should look at the area Dave mentioned to put the picnic table. Andrew stated they were putting in a new bench in an area called Rocky Bottom. Karen Graham asked about the Reservoir and whether the area around it is considered Open Space? Andrew said yes it was considered Open Space. Karen commented that the area is full of trash and the beach areas are full of broken glass. Andrew said the biggest roadblock in doing anything there is you cannot trespass on any of that land. Even to go in and clean-up is illegal. Karen said there are hooks and fishing line, Dave said even worse lead weights. Dave said; as mentioned in other meetings there are trails there

and if they formalize the area they can put up rules hoping the town can watch it more closely. Kathy Swain why can't you be out there. Andrew stated because it was the drinking water supply. Kathy said she thought at Wampatuck there is a reservoir that people walk around and kayak in. Dave commented that you can walk around Wachusett and the Quabbin reservoir. Kathy Swain asked if it a town choice or a state choice. Dave stated that it is town choice. Andrew stated we could bring this up with the mayor and Conservation. Kathy Swain commented that Open Space in South Weymouth other than the airbase in has kind of been ignored; the focus has been on Open Space in North Weymouth. Kate Marshall said that is another thing we will have to bring to this consultants' attention when we update the Open Space plan. The Open Space plan is not what it was and the developer at the base keeps changing what the open space and recreation plan is. Kathy Swain stated in the beginning there were committees and discussion of the plan. Kathy Swain inquired who speaks to the changes in the Open Space plan just the developer? Kate Marshall said there is a Southfield Redevelopment Authority that has appointed members from each town. Kathy Swain asked where does the Southfield Development get their input from the community? The committee was not sure where they got community input from. Dave asked if we could invite them to a meeting and Andrew said that is a possibility. Kathy Swain stated that it seems the Open Space Plan over the years has gotten less and less of what it originally was. Cate Parsley questioned how the original agreement was crafted; was it crafted so the town could hold them to anything.

6. Community Walk

Andrew mentioned that other Open Space Committees do some type of community walk. Andrew felt it would be a nice idea for the spring if we could put something together. We could pick an open space in town, ideally one we have been working on or been recently completed. We would invite from the public to join us, kind of like a meet and greet. Kate Marshall said save the date; October 22 at 2:00 pm the mayor is going to a dedication at King Oak Hill.

7. Community Comment

Kathy Swain asked if anyone knew what was happening with Gagnon park and the purchase of the Finnell property that abuts it. Andrew had not heard anything. Dave said that he belongs to the Weymouth Club and they have different summer camps there. He wondered whether they would ever consider improving the trails. Kathy Swain asked as we move forward and improve the open space is there any thought of having an open space person who just patrols these areas. Andrew commented that our dog officer does a lot of that right now. Karen Graham stated you do not want a dog officer doing that job, more of a park ranger type person. Andrew stated that the dog officer has stated he cannot handle all this patrolling. Karen Graham said he should be patrolling the area we really do not want dogs, like the new fields. Kathy Swain questioned who is going to take care of all this open space, it cannot just be the DPW. Kathy Swain thought it should be two people ideally.


Andrew mentioned that there is a Massachusetts Land Conference in the spring and he asked about sending some of the committee members. The date is a Saturday in March.

He will be attending and is hoping some of the committee members can join him. It is in Worcester.

Cate Parsley questioned what has happened to Weston Park. They have paved a road right through it. Karen Graham stated that the neighbors are not happy.

8. Next meeting will be November 14, 2018
9. Motion to adjourn made by Andrew, second by Joe, voted unanimously

Approved:



Andrew Hultin, Chair

Date 11/14/18