

***Town of Weymouth  
Massachusetts***

Robert L. Hedlund  
Mayor

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Weymouth, MA 02189



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**MINUTES**

Open Space Committee  
November 14th, 2018, 7:00 pm  
Weymouth Town Hall  
Kelly Room  
75 Middle Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Weymouth, MA 02189

**Members Present:** Andrew Hultin (Chair)

Karen Graham  
Dave Henley  
Kathy Swain

**Member Absent:** Joe Haddock

Kate Marshall  
Cate Parsley

**Citizens Present:** Matthew Tallon – Idlewell Education and Improvement Assoc.

Cathy Torrey  
Harry Castleman

**Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM**

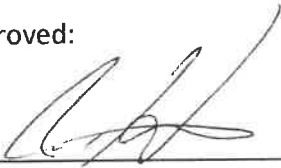
1. Approval of Minutes- The chair requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting.  
Motion to Approve- Kathy; Second Dave; Vote Unanimous
2. Cadman Conservation presentation by Matthew Tallon from the Idlewell Education and Improvement Association. Mr. Tallon described how the association is very active offering educational scholarships, big supporters of the schools and a range of improvement projects from traffic calming measures to infrastructure. Karen Graham asked what the parameters of Idlewell. Mr. Tallon stated it goes from a street called Hyde on Commercial to Fourth St.. Everything on the Fore River side of Commercial St. Mr. Tallon presented a power point presentation on the Cadman Conservation area. Two areas of concern at the beginning of the presentation were the size of the culvert that was put in when the Greenbush Line was redone and a broken sewer culvert. The train track cuts through the marsh and in storms it seems that the size of the culvert is not large enough to let water pass through to the other side causing flooding during high tides and storms. The other concern that was shown was a broken sewer culvert that releases raw sewerage into the marsh. It is also a safety issue because of the size of the opening in the concrete. Mr. Tallon felt that there has been much improvement to the Back River over the years, but the Fore River has been neglected. The original gift of the Cadman family was four parcels in total, however if you look on Google Maps the

area is looks larger with many of those parcels being privately owned. The association would like to expand this area by working with residents, Ken Ryder a builder, also Mass. Electric who owns some properties. This project to expand the conservation area has been going on for about two years now and the association feels that it is critical to mitigating storm damage and climate change. They also feel increasing the conservation area will help the town in meeting the 40 B guidelines. One option is seeing if some residents would be willing to put a conservation restriction on their property. It seems that 4 of the residents are willing to do this. Another is seeing if some residents are willing donate some of the lots. One parcel was bought an Association that is now defunct who has not paid taxes for years on the property. This parcel would be an access point. There will be three potential access points. Mr. Tallon has been in contact with someone regarding the property owned by Mass Electric (National Grid). National Grid is willing to trade the parcels as part of project mitigation and that the mitigation does have to be in Weymouth. There are four parcels owned by Ken Ryder and the only reason he has not built is he has an access problem. It the hopes of the association that he will eventually be willing to sell to the town for conservation land. If that did happen the association would like to formalize the area with a walking trail and viewing area. One other area the association works to maintain is Newell Park which is a town owned park. Each year they do a spring clean up at the park. The association would like to see some improvements to Newell Park. The association sent out a survey back in the summer of 2017 to ask the residents what they would like to see to take the park from good to great. These are some of the things that they would like to see happen; a walking running trail around the perimeter, clear some of the vistas, add some benches, exercise stations, basketball and hockey combo, new play structure, and fishing and bird viewing platforms. Finally, Mr. Tallon spoke of the idea he called the blue skies type of proposal. At the of Hibiscus there is already a trail already exists but maybe making a trail along the rail connecting Idlewell to the Weymouth Landing. Karen Graham has mentioned that this area has been discussed at the waterfront committee meetings with regards to the kayak launch. Idlewell Association has a Facebook page and an email address of Idlewellneighborhood@gmail.com

3. Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – Andrew has no update. Dave has read the plan. Kathy Swain has read the plan and submitted some thoughts and questions on the plan. She disturbed her comments to the committee mentioning that one area that concerned her was the redevelopment of South Field. She was wondering what was happening? Dave Henley said we talked about having someone come in from South Field. Andrew stated that currently are some other issues with South Field, so he has been waiting. Kathy Swain is just wondering with regards to Open Space what is happening and who is overseeing? Andrew said he would talk to the mayor.
4. Bradford Torrey Bird Sanctuary – Andrew has made the trail markers rather than use KZL. He passed out the trail markers and asked for input. Karen Graham said she would be happy to help with design since that is what she did for a living and asked Andrew to send her a copy.
5. Woodbine Property Update – The town did submit a letter to Weymouth/Braintree Regional Conservation District that they are looking to do this work. A brief site walk will happen in the next two weeks and DPW is on board about doing the project. A letter was sent to abutters and they did have some concerns about vandalism, people going in there after hours, littering, and a fire hazard. Another concern was drug use in the area. Andrew spoke with them and stated that this area they feel will be basically used by the residents of Woodbine Road and they do not expect a lot of traffic coming to the area.

6. Recreational Trail Grant Update – Andrew stated we are in the paperwork portion of it. Part of the initial plan was to put a small concrete pad inside to suppress the knotweed and they have eliminated that from the scope of work, however they will bring in signage to Abigail Adams site and the Kibby property to formally connect the trails. Karen Graham asked if they would be putting up new fences or removing on parts of Great Eskers. She stated that the fences were disrepair and not very pleasing to look at. Andrew said with all government properties you are going to see these fences and the cost to remove these fences are expensive. Karen asked if we could have volunteers and Andrew felt that the scope of the work was too much. Andrew felt is something they could consider but not sure about the permitting. Kathy Swain asked if they could remove the fence just where Karen was speaking of. Andrew felt it was something to consider. They have been in touch with Mass. DOT with regards to installing a push button for a safe crossing of Rt. 3A. The funding for that was not included in the original scope of work and DOT wants the town to send a request.
7. Community Comment – None
8. Next Meeting – December 12 at 7:00 PM, Kelly Room
9. Motion to adjourn made by Andrew, second by Dave, voted unanimously

Approved:



Andrew Hultin, Chair

Date

01/09/19