

**Town of Harvard  
Open Space Committee  
Minutes of March 10, 2022**

**Attendees:**

Peter Dorward (Chair)  
Paul Cohen (Vice-Chair)  
Rich Maiore  
Dan Daly  
Linda Dwight  
JoAnne Crystoff  
Jim Lee  
Brian Cox  
Frank Carlson, joined mid-way through.

Non-Voting Members  
Liz Allard

**Minutes**

Committee unanimously approved minutes of February 17, 2022 meeting.  
Committee unanimously approved next meeting for Thursday April 14, 2022

**Open Space Study**

Liz provided update that Open Space plan ends in 2023. She estimates \$20-\$25,000 to update the plan with work being done in coordination and funding from MRPC. Elements will include public survey, updating town demographics and goals. She will schedule a call with MRPC for mid-April.

**OSC re-appointments**

Peter reminded committee members they will need to get re-appointed. All members present indicated interest in continuing. Peter asked members to indicate interest to their specific boards or committees. JoAnne will be re-appointed by Select Board.

**OSC Goals for 2022**

Peter discussed potential goals for the committee.

- Implement Open Space prioritization model
- Define Open Space
- Finalize capital plan for development of active recreation
- Work with Town on land preservation or active recreation issues as needed
- Act as Town liaison to appropriate state and regional groups

Unanimous approval by the committee of OSC Goals for 2022

### **Identification of Active Recreation Sites**

Jim shared list of potential sites suitable for active recreation needs. Approximately 10-15 parcels now. He suggested sharing the list with Park & Recreation (P&R) to gain feedback. Dan shared that P&R hasn't yet discussed potential land. He recommended sharing the list with P&R, School Committee and Harvard Athletic Association (HAA). Paul recommended checking with Select Board first on their willingness to take on debt and where a field complex falls in order of town priorities.

### **Regional Farm Program**

Liz updated the committee on regional farm program. This involves designation of land with local importance. Landowner receives agricultural land easement. 50% funded by Federal Government. Frank said Agricultural Committee may not be aware of this program. Peter asked Frank to share with Ag. Comm with the hope that it be a collaborative effort with OSC.

### **Northeast Forestry**

Liz updated the committee on another program the town could be eligible for. NE Forestry program takes over land, landowner receives income for the land. Parcels are typically 50 acres or greater. She noted connectivity of smaller parcels is possible.

### **Landscape Partnership Grant Opportunity**

Peter updated committee on this grant opportunity. Requirements include 500 acres of contiguous land. Peter shared map, only two areas in town would qualify—Oxbow and Eastern Greenway. This would hinder the town's chances. Jim asked if Fruitlands could be partner with OSC in seeking funding. However, with the grant deadline fast approaching the committee agreed it was unlikely to get Fruitlands on board on such a short timeline.

### **Next Meeting**

April 14, 2022

**Meeting adjourned: 9:04**