

**Town of Harvard
Open Space Committee
Minutes of July 14, 2022**

Attendees:

Paul Cohen (Vice-Chair)
Rich Maiore
Dan Daly
Brian Cook
Linda Dwight
JoAnne Crystoff
Jim Lee
Liz Allard

Agenda

Procedural Items

Committee unanimously approved minutes of June 9, 2022 meeting.
Agreed to hold meeting in August.

Old Business

OS protection update - Jim

Jim didn't have any new update from last month

Potential Active Rec Site List evaluation – Paul, Dan, Linda

No movement on the active list due to holidays, vacation.

Rich provided an update on discussion from Select Board's retreat and goals re: active rec/open space.

SB asked Town Admin for plan for playing fields. Town Admin outlined a 3 phased approach—1) immediate conversion of Ryan field to softball field by Spring 2023. 2) Explore land swap between P&R and Cons Comm for land on Old Mill. 3) Development of field complex within 3 years. SB is also interested in hiring a consultant to assess future field needs.

Jim asked about developing a softball field in front of HES. Linda shared that School Bldg Committee would assess pros/cons. The biggest concern is fencing, open play space for HES students and budget. Linda said SBC would meet next week to discuss.

Re: Old Mill Road. Dan reminded the committee this particular land swap has been discussed several times over the past four years with no resolution.

JoAnne departed the meeting at this time.

OSRP survey

Jeff Legros from MRPC provided overview on key findings from recent OSRP.

- 73% value open space extremely.
- Need for additional recreation/playing fields including softball.
- Need for open recreation field
- Maintenance of the open space and fields is a high concern
- Rural character is highly valued.

Jeff walked through comparative questions which results provided contradictory answers. Including Question 5.

Jeff said updated OSRP should have a greater focus on active recreation issues based on findings from the survey.

Jim and Liz discussed reviewing the comments and trying to bucket them in appropriate categories. Jim said he'd start it and then had over to Liz. Jim asked if Jeff could look into and highlight and display the category of answers related to questions in the survey on funding for open space/active rec.

Adjourned: 9:03am

Next Meeting
8AM August 11, 2022