

Minutes of Open Space Committee
July 22, 2021
8:30 am (Zoom)

Members present: Peter Dorward, Liz Allard, Dan Daly, Paul Cohen, Jim Lee, Linda Dwight

Minutes from 6/10/2021 meeting approved as written, vote unanimous

Discussion to schedule next meeting: Decided 9/9/2021. Zoom style was preferred.

Open Space Protection

Jim shared the top 25 list with the committee. The list shows highest scored properties as determined by scoring metric. The top 25 properties are presented with a designation of "probability of developability", high(H) and medium(M). Two other columns are also shown as "pursue/monitor", and "Lead". The pursue/monitor column partitions the properties between those that are in process now (or are actively being pursued), and those that the committee will gather further info on.

Peter showed a map that visualizes the list. Peter emphasized that the list and map are working documents. Jim asked if every change needed to be voted on by the committee. The consensus was that they did not. The committee felt it was important that both the list and map should be given to the Select Board and other stakeholders.

Liz indicated that ConCom was no longer in talks with the Turners as they had decided the asking price was too high.

Jim made motion to accept the list and map as shown and to present it to the SB. Paul seconded the motion.

Vote: Paul: yes, Linda: yes, Peter: yes, Dan: abstain, Jim: yes

Active Rec

Dan indicated he will add some qualitative information to the potential field site list for the September meeting.

Peter asked the committee if it still wanted to receive the fields needs analysis from P&R before sharing the list of potential active rec sites. Peter indicated that the P&R chair had told him in an email and stated in a public meeting that the needs analysis was not necessary as all fields are currently booked 100% of the time, implying more fields are required. Jim offered that the OSC's role for active rec is to find potential sites based on P&R requirements, not to determine the need for more fields.

Dan reported that P&R requirements have for field space have not changed; P&R has decided not to continue work on the needs analysis for playing fields based on lack of input to its

subcommittee. Linda suggested OSC should supply a list of potential active rec sites to the Select Board and P&R to determine whether the Town is asked to fund new fields.

Jim suggested expanding the list of potential active rec sites by increasing the allowable slope, citing Harvard Track as an example. Peter and Jim will investigate the impact of changing the slope requirements, but Peter thought it would not change the list significantly.

Peter will circulate the list to each stakeholder group via their OSC liaisons and share with the Select Board.

Jim made a motion to accept and share the list. Paul seconded.

Vote: Paul: yes, Linda: yes, Peter: yes, Dan: yes, Jim: yes

Peter reported that at the recent P&R meeting, Kara Minar (the SB liaison for P&R) had asked if there were site requirements for a pump track. P&R chair Bob O'Shea replied that the requirements had already been supplied to OSC. Peter asked the committee if anyone had received such requirements. No one on OSC was aware of any. Dan reported that at the 7/19/21 meeting, P&R had voted to pursue the idea for a pump track, but that P&R had no project plan and therefore no further direction for OSC.

Peter asked the committee if they had any suggestions for improving interactions with P&R. Dan suggested relying on the liaisons. Linda suggested that the new Director of Community Recreation and Education will be able to help with the interaction.

Select Board Update

Peter presented some questions for the committee concerning the check-in with the SB.

- Should the committee continue to work now that properties have been identified? And if so in what capacity should it continue?
- Should there be any change in the makeup of the committee, perhaps to drop some members who have been unable to regularly attend due to time constraints?

It was suggested that the new community ed director be part of the group, and that the planning board have a liaison for OSC. It was also suggested that the group continue to be the town's agent for acquiring open space and rec land. Peter will put these suggestions together for presentation to the SB at some future meeting.

It was discussed how the OSC should go about asking for additional funding for ongoing project. Paul suggested that any particular project might need to be discussed in executive session prior to bringing it to a discussion in public session.

Vote to adjourn meeting: Unanimous.

Minutes by Jim Lee.

