

Minutes of Open Space Committee
Jan 12, 2023

Members Present: Paul Cohen, Franklyn Carlson, Jim Lee, Peter Dorward, Brian Cook, Liz Allard, Rich Maiore

Jim to take minutes of current meeting.

Old Business:

Update on letters to selected owners of potential Rec lands

4 owners were contacted by Jim and Peter. Three of them said “thanks for the heads-up” but no further discussions needed with them. One said they look forward to getting letter. For the 3 who said no, it was clear that the metric that included their property was a bit flawed in that the “level” portion of their lands was in close proximity to their houses and structures, so didn’t make sense to consider for rec space.

Letter to Rec site landowners:

We have a draft letter to landowners of parcels which are suitable for Rec spaces. Paul stated that it was waiting for the above-mentioned landowners to be contacted. Now that the contact has been made, he will touch base with Linda Dwight who had volunteered to get the letters out.

Update of OSRP

Peter updates the group that the grant funding for MRRPC assistance with the process has run out so OSC will have to finish it on our own. Mostly done now, except for sec 9(action plan).

Also missing are the sections on Recreation (sec 4 and updates on progress against past goals).

Without updates on the rec sections, it would probably have to be left out, which would put the town at disadvantage for future grant opportunities dealing with Recreation.

Update from Peter on request from SB about applying for grants from MVP for protection of open space lands, which would help with environmental resiliency.

An expression of interest needs to be submitted by Jan 20 which Peter is drafting. In process of putting this together it was discovered that by combining the Carlson land with the adjoining lands now owned by Campanelli Corp(formally owned by Cisco), the grant would be more competitive. By joining with Boxborough, the application would have a better chance of

succeeding since Boxborough scores better with environmental justice classification and the grants typically reward neighboring communities which work together. All were in favor of continuing. CPC request will also continue.

Peter reminded the group that the annual OSC report to the town for 2022 is due by end of Jan. and asked for any volunteers to write up the draft. Rich volunteered.

Discussion election of new chair and vice chair. Peter has stated that he is not interested in continuing as chair. Liz suggested that most appointments to town boards are done at end of fiscal year so maybe that would be the time to do this. Full discussion of this was tabled at this time.

Next meeting is scheduled for Feb 9th. Peter would not be available so Paul has stated that he could chair the meeting if needed. It was suggested by Rich that it would probably be best to keep the date as scheduled as the Special Town meeting is on for Feb 13th. On the agenda for STM is the increase of CPC surcharge. It was decided that we should keep the Feb 9th meeting as scheduled.

Meeting adjourned by about 8:40am.

Submitted by Jim Lee