

Open Space Committee

November 24, 2020, 4:00 pm -- Zoom Meeting

Present (Each from home via Zoom): Tom Slack, Peggy Sagan, Fred Streams, John Cumbler, Lynn Southey, Bob Jackson. *Guests:* Denny O'Connell, WCT

Call to order 4:06 pm

Agenda approved with one addition: 5-year plan (Old Business). Minutes of 10/27/20 meeting approved.

Chair and Vice-Chair Report, Tom Slack: Nothing to report

Standing Assignments

Property management, F. Streams: Fred has inspected 3 more properties, finding no problems other than trash. There are several more properties to inspect in the coming weeks.

Trail Guides, L. Southey: Three of the trail guides are in short supply: Box Turtle, Drummer Cove, Story of the Outer Cape. D. O'Connell said that WCT's AmeriCorps volunteer has updated the map for Clover and will begin work on Box Turtle map next. Others will follow and be coordinated with OSC. He requested that Lynn send him the text of the guides (in MS Word), if available, so that WCT can update the information on their website.

J. Cumbler suggested that we explore including the Trail Maps in the Chamber of Commerce guide, with a link to the WCT website.

Elementary School, B. Jackson: The status of school walks this year is doubtful due to COVID-19. However, because the school building is open, Bob suggested that we provide the office with copies of Trail Guides to encourage families to get outdoors.

Liaison Reports

WCT, D. O'Connell (in Bruce' absence): Denny reported for WCT that the CR on portion of Ms. Reinhart's property is essentially completed and was being reviewed/approved by the Select Board before submission to the State. The trails for Herring River Overlook are being laid out. This year's AmeriCorps member has updated the Wellfleet Open Space and Conservation Lands map which is now posted on the WCT website. The map will be updated before the end of the AmeriCorps year.

Friends of Herring River, L. Southey: Still finalizing permit applications to MA Department of Environmental Protection for 401 Water Quality Certification and Chapter 91 License, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for an Individual Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

John Portnoy finished a fecal coliform study, as a follow-up to the 2005 study. Results show that fecal coliform levels remain high both above and directly below the dike. It continues to show that fecal coliform will likely be reduced by restoration. (High levels of fecal coliform is what leads to shellfish bed closures).

Housing Partnership, J. Cumbler: Lawrence Road – the low water pressure is being resolved. Freeman Lane – seeking someone interested in building a single residence.

CPC, B. Jackson: CPC has awarded grants, including \$15K to a Veterans Project in Dennis that will serve as a regional resource for homeless veterans. There were fewer grants awarded than money available, so OSC is encouraged to submit a proposal in the next cycle.

D. O'Connell pointed out that the application process can be challenging due to the time lapse between making an accepted offer on a property and getting approval at Town Meeting. Concern was expressed that CPC grants don't go far with high priced land. Denny reminded the group that a project can borrow against future CPC revenues pending a favorable outcome.

NRAB, T. Slack: The Board will review the draft for 2020 Harbor Management Plan by Thanksgiving. Tom reported on the State of the Harbor Conference and suggested that OSC members read The Center for Coastal Studies report "'Black Mayonnaise' in Wellfleet Harbor," commissioned by NRAB. It is available on the CCS and Town website.

Old Business

Map 30 - 14 (Kincaid St.) – No progress

Open Space 5-Year Plan, F. Streams – B. Hurter contacted Douglas Guey-Lee to ask for guidance in getting the plan updated, and Doug suggested that we get a consultant to write the plan. J. Cumbler suggested that we ask Doug for names of recommended grant writers and an idea of the estimated cost for a project of this scope. As a back-up, D. O'Connell mentioned that the Mass Land Trust Alliance provides a list of service providers on their website. In either case, sources of funding for a grant writer needs to be explored.

Criteria for Land Preservation – Members had reviewed the 2 sets of criteria that B. Hurter provided (WCT Open Space Matrix Scoring Method and the CPC "Needs List"). After discussion, J. Cumbler moved that the OSC adopt the CPC criteria with the addition proposed by J. Portnoy and eliminating item #9. The proposal passed 5 to 1 (Jackson dissenting).

Town Warrant, T. Slack – Tom reported that Bruce has spoken with Suzanne Thomas and Hillary Greenberg-Lemos about town-owned properties at Indian Neck (Map 28 - 80, 82, 239) and Sewell's Gutter (Map 28 - 234 & 235). Hillary is supportive of OSC pursuing these properties for conservation, and Suzanne has no objections from the perspective of the Beach Department. J. Cumbler moved that we include these properties on the 2021 Town Warrant, in addition to the previously agreed properties in Blackfish Creek and off Bayberry Hill Conservation Land. The motion passed unanimously (6 to 0).

Meeting adjourned 5:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sagan, Secretary, OSC