

Open Space Committee
July 20, 2021, 4:00 PM --Zoom Meeting

Present (Each from home via Zoom): Bruce Hurter, Peggy Sagan, Fred Streams, John Grieb, Tom Slack, Lynn Southey

Guests: Denny O'Connell, WCT

Call to order 4:03 pm

One correction to the agenda; approved unanimously.

Two corrections to the minutes of 6/8/21 meeting; approved unanimously.

Chair Report, B. Hurter:

Bruce welcomed John Grieb to the committee and reminded the group that with John Cumbler stepping down, we still have one vacancy. He asked that we alert him to any possible candidates.

In anticipation of the fall Town Meeting, Bruce asked for a vote on the two town properties that were postponed at the summer TM (Map 30 – 186 and Map 42 – 137). The committee had previously approved the transfer to these properties to care and custody of ConsCom. The new vote was unanimous, and Bruce will take the next steps to get them included in the Town Warrant.

Vice-Chair Report, T. Slack: Nothing to report.

Standing Assignments

Property management, F. Streams: Nothing to report.

Trail Guides, L. Southey: After dropping off the remaining collated sets of Trail Guides at the library, Lynn needs to assemble additional sets from existing inventory.

There are two trail guides in various stages of revision: Drummer Cove and Box Turtle. D. O'Connell asked Lynn for one final review of the files before she sends them to the printer.

Elementary School, P. Sagan: B. Jackson has offered to introduce Peggy to the WES principal. Peggy will try to schedule it before school resumes in the fall.

Liaison Reports

WCT, B. Hurter: The Herring River Overlook trail sign has been installed and parking lot drainage has been corrected. D. O'Connell said that the Trail Guide is out for review.

Denny reported that the annual WCT hike is scheduled for September 11. It will include trails in and around Kinnicum Pond. Due to the popularity of these walks, WCT will require participants to sign up in advance.

Denny told the committee that today was the AmeriCorps intern's last day, and WCT will not have an intern next year. (However, the Health/Conservation Department will, in case OSC has projects they can assist with.)

Friends of Herring River, L. Southey: Lynn reported that FHR just received a \$500,000 grant from MA Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration, for continued design and permitting. They anticipate they will receive additional funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center “shortly.” The project is now working to obtain construction-phase funding.

FHR is also exploring whether the Herring River Overlook property can be used as collateral to qualify for a \$2 million grant under the North American Wildlife Conservation Act. D. O’Connell confirmed the WCT is receptive to allowing this to happen as the conditions are consistent with conservation plans by WCT.

Housing Partnership: B. Hurter asked whether anyone is interested in filling J. Cumbler’s role as liaison to the Housing Partnership, and J. Grieb volunteered.

CPC, F. Streams: Fred has attended two CPC meetings, one as liaison and one as a CPC member. He reported that the deadline for grants is August 9, and said that CPC is requesting that only “time-sensitive” grants be submitted, due to the narrow time window before the fall Town Meeting. Fred will send the OSC members a copy of the guidelines for CPC grant applications. He also reported that OSC currently has \$41,797 in reserves.

NRAB: T. Slack: Tom reported that Town Meeting passed the article, without discussion, for \$25,000 to fund an engineering study to test the viability of replenishing the marsh at Duck Creek by applying “Black Custard” (dredged material). The NRAB removed the second warrant (\$65,000 to fund a flora and fauna survey of Wellfleet Harbor) at the request of the Select Board, due to a full agenda. NRAB hopes to resubmit it at the fall TM.

Tom also reported that the NRAB has decided to look at the health of the ponds, specifically to determine who is responsible for monitoring them: Abutters? The Town? The State? CCNS?

Old Business

- LAND Grant Application – B. Hurter will schedule a meeting with J. Grieb, F. Streams, and P. Sagan to begin work on this application.
- Search for a new OSC Chair – Bruce has notified the town that he is stepping down as Chair but would like to remain on the committee. He encouraged other committee members to step up.
- Conservation Deeds – Bruce said that the committee needs to obtain titles for all town properties in ConsCom care. D. O’Connell said that this project would be a good one for the AmeriCorps person next year, and suggested that we should contact Hillary Greenberg-Lemos to reserve some time.

Properties for Consideration

Thinking ahead to the 2022 Town Meeting, B. Hurter reminded the committee that we had previously discussed placing the following into care and custody of ConsCom:

- Map 29 - 400 and 505 on Paine Hollow Road
- Map 36 – 28 and 289, off Bond Street in South Wellfleet; adjacent to one current and one potential WCT property (the latter under agreement)

The committee will also continue to monitor the possibility of negotiating an Easement through the Agger property (Map 41-178.1) on Lt. Island. Finally, the Pyles' property on Bayberry Road (Map 41 – 121) is still on the market.

New Business

B. Hurter reported that Ryan Curley (new Select Board Chair) is interested in looking at all town-owned properties for possible infractions (e.g., trash, dog waste). Ryan has suggested that OSC could inspect them, and he has identified criteria for setting priorities. The committee requested a copy of the list to see how it correlates with the ConsCom properties that F. Streams has inspected annually on behalf of the OSC. Although the committee sees the value of conducting inspections of all town-owned properties, there is some concern about the time involved and what the reporting mechanism would be.

Meeting adjourned 5:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sagan, Secretary, OSC