

Open Space Committee

April 27, 2021, 4:00 PM --Zoom Meeting

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

Guests: Denny O'Connell, WCT; John Grieb, Wellfleet Resident

Call to order 4:08 pm

One addition to the agenda; approved unanimously.

Minutes of 3/16/21 meeting approved unanimously.

Chair Report, B. Hurter:

Bruce reported that he will be stepping down as Chair of OSC in November, and he invited other members to step up. T. Slack, Vice-Chair, says he is reluctant to step up as Chair because he will be spending more time in California. As reported earlier, B. Jackson is also resigning from the committee at the end of the current term. Bruce wants to remain on the committee as long as there is an opening.

Bruce also provided an update on funding to hire a grant writer. As previously reported, he has identified a state grant which, if awarded, would pay up to \$400,000 toward the purchase of a qualified property AND 80% of the cost writing of the Open Space 5-Year-Plan (estimated at \$12,500). Bruce spoke with the Rebecca Slick, Assistant Town Administrator, to request \$1,500 to hire a grant writer. Rebecca is reluctant to spend money on hiring a grant writer. Since she has experience in this area, she offered to assist the committee with the grant application.

F. Streams questioned whether Jeff Thibodeau, with whom Bruce had discussed writing the grant application as well as the 5-year-plan, might be less interested in the assignment if the scope is scaled back (minus the grant application).

Bruce has also spoken with the State Grants Administrator. In order to apply for a LAND (Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity) grant (deadline July 14), we would need to have a specific property that we are trying to purchase or protect through a CR. Because of the filing requirements, it will be challenging to meet the filing deadline this year. D. O'Connell also reminded the committee that the purchase of property would need to be approved by Town Meeting.

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

Standing Assignments

Property management, F. Streams: Fred sent the report on his review of all parcels to Doug Guey-Lee, including our recommendation to add diamond-shaped signs. No response. Bruce will follow up. He said that OSC may need to take the lead on installing the signs.

Trail Guides, L Southey: There is one correction to the Box Turtle Trail Guide. She will resolve it this week and send the files to the printer.

Elementary School, B. Jackson: Bob reported that the grades 3-5 teachers are enthusiastic about distributing the Trail Maps to their students. When asked whether they would like any assistance from OSC in developing classroom activities, the teachers responded with their own ideas for incorporating the trail guides into their instruction: descriptive writing activities (Grade 3), videos of trail walks (Grade 4), and lessons on maps (Grade 5).

L. Southey will collate sets of maps for the teachers. The school will need approximately 70 sets.

P. Sagan offered to assume Bob's role as liaison to the elementary school when he retires.

Liaison Reports

WCT, B. Hurter: D. O'Connell requested assistance from OSC members to co-lead a walk to Fox Island/Pilgrim Spring on June 23. The walk is one of a series sponsored by the Wellfleet Historical Society in conjunction with the Wampanoag historian, Marcus Hendricks. P. Sagan volunteered to assist, but she needs to withdraw due to a scheduling conflict.

Friends of Herring River, L Southey:

- The permits have been submitted and the public notice was published in the *Cape Cod Times* inviting public comment.
- May is Herring River Month, and the Friends are hosting guided walks and holding a Herring River 5K Run (and Walk, Swim or Paddle) to raise awareness and money for the restoration project.
- The Herring Count is under way. The drought has lowered water levels, making it difficult for herring to navigate the streams, and many are dying in route.
- Dale Rheault is the new Director (Chair) of the Friends of Herring River.

Housing Partnership: J. Cumber: John said the waste water disposal issues need to be resolved on the Lawrence Road Housing Project before it can be approved. Money is available, but whether the state will fund the system being proposed is uncertain. The APCC (Association to Protect Cape Cod) is on top of these issues.

CPC, B. Jackson: The CPC has not met since our last meeting, so there is nothing to report.

NRAB: T. Slack reported that the NRAB is submitting requests for funding at Town Meeting:

- \$25,000 to fund an engineering study to test the viability of replenishing the marsh at Duck Creek by applying "Black Custard" (dredged material).
- A grant to redo/update the Curley Report, a 50-year-old study of wildlife, fish, and shellfish in Wellfleet Harbor.

Old Business

B. Hurter said that the town needs to obtain deeds on several properties to support their transfer to ConsCom. The Committee will work with the assessors office to obtain deeds for conservation purposes.

Town Meeting: The Selectboard voted to support the Town Warrants for properties 30-186 (wetlands on Blackfish Creek) and 42-137 (wetlands at Bayberry Trail). The Shellfish Advisory Committee also voted in support of them. We withdrew the warrant for 30-188 (Town Landing at Blackfish Creek) because access is an issue.

Toward resolving access issues, B. Jackson suggested that we pursue a working relationship with the Shellfish Advisory Committee and invite them to attend our meetings. Bruce recommended that we also develop an effective partnership with the Public Access Committee (Melissa Yow, Chair, and John Riehl, member).

Properties for Consideration

No discussion.

New Business

No new business.

Meeting adjourned 5:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sagan, Secretary, OSC