

Open Space Committee

June 8, 2021, 4:00 PM --Zoom Meeting

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

Guests: Denny O'Connell, WCT

Call to order 4:04 pm

One addition to the agenda; approved unanimously.

Two corrections to the minutes of 4/27/21 meeting; approved unanimously.

Chair Report, B. Hurter:

Bruce updated the committee on the status of applying for a LAND grant for the 5-year plan. Jeff Thibodeau is still interested in writing the 5-year plan, so the committee needs to focus on completing the LAND grant application. P. Sagan and F. Streams will work with J. Grieb on the application to meet the July 14, 2022 deadline.

Bruce clarified that we do not need to have a signed P&S on a property in order to apply for the grant, but we do need to have a specific property that we are trying to purchase or protect through a CR. The grant would not be awarded until the property is under agreement.

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

Standing Assignments

Property management, F. Streams: Nothing to report.

Trail Guides, L. Southey absent. D. O'Connell said he is working with Lynn to resolve several minor issues.

Elementary School, B. Jackson: Nothing to report.

Liaison Reports

WCT, B. Hurter: The Herring River Overlook trail and parking lot have been completed. Signage needs to be installed.

Bruce reported that the Friends of Herring River wants WCT to designate a CR on the Herring River Overlook property as part of the North American Wildlife Conservation Act, which requires registering a conservation restriction on the property at the Registry of Deeds. This designation would provide added protection for conservation, and provide money for the Herring river project.

Housing Partnership: J. Cumbler absent.

CPC, B. Jackson: 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).
- \$65,000 to fund a harbor flora and fauna survey, especially shellfish and finfish, to determine the health and well-being of Wellfleet Harbor.

The Committee voted to take a position on these two articles for the Town Warrant, voting 5-0 in favor of each one.

Public Access Committee: B. Hurter reported that he has been attending these meetings because this committee is looking at public access to the Bay and eventually to town ponds. Currently, the PAC is consulting with a lawyer to determine what the town can do to obtain access to the beach adjacent to the Agger property on Lt. Island. Previously, OSC supported obtaining an easement from the property owner; a resolution of the access question could make it feasible to pursue the easement.

Old Business

Town Meeting: B. Hurter will be presenting one Town Article: transfer of care and custody of two properties to Cons Com: Map 30-186 in Blackfish Creek and Map 42-137 at end of Bayberry Trail.

Properties for Consideration

F. Streams and P. Sagan visited adjoining properties 23-602 and 23-603 and suggested that OSC consider them for transfer to care and custody of Cons Com. They are located between Cahoon Hollow Road, Old Kings Highway, and the CCNS. 23-603 includes the Dog Park and a small pond; 23-602 contains a town well with accessory buildings. Both are crossed with fire roads and trails and are currently used for passive recreation. Bruce pointed out that some Cape towns put wellfields into conservation to preserve a “zone of influence,” a designation that provides added protection for town water but does not restrict the town’s ability to drill new wells if needed. He suggested that we speak with the Water Commission about 30-602 and 8-131, another town-owned property that also contains a wellfield.

New Business

As this was B. Jackson’s last meeting, B. Hurter thanked him for his many years of service and said he will be missed. Bob has contributed to and furthered the mission of OSC through his liaison role with the Wellfleet Elementary School and the Community Preservation Committee as well as his work with L. Southey developing and maintaining the Trail Guides. Bruce asked committee members to step up and assume these responsibilities. Bob says he hopes OSC will continue to build awareness of the value of open space with the citizens of Wellfleet.

Meeting adjourned 5:14 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sagan, Secretary, OSC