

## Open Space Committee

December 14, 2021, 4:30 PM -- Zoom Meeting

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

*Guests:* Denny O'Connell, WCT; GB (Gorham) Brigham, *Energy and Climate Action Committee*

**Public Meeting called to order 4:38 pm**

### Welcome and Public Comments

B. Hurter read the proposed articles to transfer town-owned properties (Map 30-186 and Map 42-137) to ConsCom care and custody and invited public comment. The transfer had previously been approved by OSC (unanimously) and the Select Board (4-1). D. O'Connell spoke in favor of the proposals, noting that both properties are appropriate meet the criteria for transfer to the jurisdiction of ConsCom

### Committee Meeting called to order 4:41 pm

Agenda approved with one correction.

Minutes of 10/5/21 meeting approved unanimously.

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

### Standing Assignments

Property management, F. Streams: Property inspections are continuing, and there are only a handful left to inspect. J. Grieb, B. Hurter, and P. Sagan have assisted Fred in these efforts.

B. Hurter noted that we need to address communication with Hillary Greenberg-Lemos' Office and the new Assistant Conservation Agent (when he/she comes on board). Of concern is how recommendations noted in OSC property inspections are followed through on once the inspection reports are filed; specifically, how chronic problems such as trash and invasive plants are addressed.

Trail Guides, L. Southey: Trail Guides for Box Turtle and Drummer Cover have been printed, and Lynn replenished the library stock. D. O'Connell said that Trail Guides for the Herring River Overlook Trail are also available. He suggested that Lynn deliver copies of the Trail Guides to Town Hall, now that it has been reopened to the public.

Community Outreach, P. Sagan: Peggy and B. Jackson met with WES principal, Mary Beth Rodman, via Zoom on 11/23. Mary Beth stated that her goals for our engagement with the school is to raise students' (and their families') awareness of what is around us -- including the history, the land, and nature of Wellfleet. Mary Beth has familiarized the teachers with our on-going partnership with the school and plans to continue this year. All four teachers at grades 3-5 are enthusiastic about the possibility of outdoor fieldtrips, health and safety concerns allowing. Although classrooms visits are not permitted, virtual lessons are a possibility. Peggy will contact the four teachers in January to start discussions and planning for activities in the spring (April/May).

Bob Jackson has graciously agreed to serve in a consultant capacity, and Peggy has had several discussions with him about the history of the OSC/WES program.

### **Liaison Reports**

WCT, B. Hurter: Bruce reminded the committee that the Annual Meeting of WCT is Dec. 15. D. O'Connell directed members to their website for the Zoom link.

Denny also announced that WCT closed on a new property on 12/1 – a 1.38 acre lot located between Rt. 6 and the Bike Trail north of the Gestalt Center.

Friends of Herring River, L. Southey: Lynn reported that public hearings will be held in Wellfleet and Truro and final permit applications will be filed after the first of the year. The bridge construction is expected to begin at the end of 2022.

Housing Partnership, J. Grieb: John reported that the contract has been awarded for 95 Lawrence Road. He also urged the committee to support a proposal that 80% of the short-term rental tax be directed to the Housing Authority for Affordable Housing. The committee voted unanimously in favor of this proposal.

CPC, F. Streams: Fred reported that CPC received 8 applications totaling over \$1 million in grants, but only an estimated \$500,000 is available to award. CPC will meet the second week of December to decide which proposals to fund.

NRAB, T. Slack: Tom reported that the Shellfish Advisory Committee has asked NRAB to respond to proposals for the HDYLTA property: Should the number of grants be increased? What about boater access?, etc.

A subcommittee has met with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) to study the health of the Wellfleet's ponds. One issue is to identify parties responsible for monitoring nitrogen and phosphorus levels and enforcing compliance.

Energy and Climate Action Committee, GB Brigham: GB offered to facilitate a presentation by a member of the ECAC (possibly Chair Dick Elkins) to discuss what the committee is currently focused on, their goals, etc. Bruce welcomed that opportunity and asked GB to serve as the liaison to OSC. GB invited a member of OSC to attend their meetings, usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, to encourage two-way communication.

### **Old Business**

5-Year Plan: P. Sagan reported that the subcommittee continues to review the existing draft plan to identify omissions and changes required. F. Streams has drafted a letter to the Select Board, requesting their assistance in distributing a survey to the community at the 2022 Town Meeting and posting it on the Town Website. Peggy will prepare a final draft of the letter for the subcommittee's approval and will then forward it to the entire committee to discuss at the next meeting.

D. O'Connell noted that the Parking Task Force managed to collect 2,500 survey responses by employing a variety of methods, including intercepting merchants, marina users, and the general public. A similar approach may be necessary to get sufficient community input to meet state requirements for the 5-Year Plan.

Search for new OSC Chair -- Bruce has asked for coverage during the time he is in Florida, mentioning that someone will need to follow up with Gerry Parent on the properties for the Town Warrant. J. Grieb has agreed to step in, and L. Southey offered to assist as needed.

Titles on Properties – Bruce will follow up with Rebecca Roughley, Assistant Town Administrator.

### **Properties for Consideration**

The committee previously discussed proposing the transfer of the following properties 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

Given the amount of time since we last visited the properties and new issues around access, B. Hurter recommends that the committee schedule new site visits after the first of the year.

### Other properties for consideration and new properties for sale:

The committee will also continue to monitor the possibility of negotiating an Easement through the Agger property (Map 41-178.1) on Lt. Island and any movement on the Pyles' property on Bayberry Road (Map 41 – 121) (currently under agreement).

### **New Business**

The committee revisited Ryan Curley's request to inspect all town-owned properties according to the criteria that Ryan has proposed. All agreed that we should conduct the inspections on a regular basis, but there were some concerns expressed about the criteria for and the frequency of inspections. P. Sagan asked for an estimate of how many properties there are, and F. Streams estimated about 150 (slightly less than twice the number that OSC is currently inspecting). B. Hurter said he would request a list of properties from Nancy Vail, Town Assessor, and he suggested that we view maps using Oliver (or its replacement).

### **Meeting adjourned 5:46 pm**

*Respectfully submitted,*

Peggy Sagan, Secretary, OSC