

Open Space Committee

February 22, 2022, 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: GB (Gorham) Brigham, *Energy and Climate Action Committee*; Denny O'Connell, *Wellfleet Conservation Trust*; Chandler Crowell

Meeting called to order 4:33 pm

Note that the previous meeting, scheduled for February 15, had to be cancelled due to technical issues and rescheduled.

Agenda approved unanimously with two corrections.
Minutes of 1/18/22 meeting approved unanimously.

Chair Report, B. Hurter: Bruce commended the subcommittee working on the 5-year plan for the progress they are making.

Vice-Chair Report, T. Slack: Tom thanked J. Grieb for agreeing to assume the role of Vice Chair of the committee. B. Hurter will inform the Select Board of the new appointment.

Standing Assignments

Property management, F. Streams: Fred and B. Hurter took Audrey, the AmeriCorps staffer, and Meredith Ballinger, the new Assistant Health and Conservation Agent, on site visits to the Sand Pit and Hamblen Park to acquaint them with the property inspection process. They explained what we look for on inspections, pointed out types of infractions (e.g., dumping of large household items at the Sand Pit and vandalism of erosion control fences at Hamblen Park), and explained how we document findings.

Trail Guides, L. Southey: Lynn reported that the sleeve (folder) for the Trail Guides needs updates, including adding the Herring River Overlook to the map. D. O'Connell said that WCT will pay for printing.

Community Outreach, P. Sagan: Peggy contacted the Grades 3, 4, and 5 teachers at Wellfleet Elementary School about preliminary plans for this year's WES/OSC collaboration.

Liaison Reports

WCT, B. Hurter: Bruce asked D. O'Connell to update the committee. WCT is about to sign a P&S on a 1.1 acre parcel in the Herring River drainage area near High Toss Road. They have applied for a state grant for the purchase, with a closing date of June 30 or December 30.

Denny also reported that WCT is in the process of developing a policy on use of WCT properties by private groups. Recently, other organizations have sponsored walks and other activities without obtaining WCT

approval in advance. One issue is that private use of the properties can deprive the general public of access. Another issue is liability, and WCT is exploring indemnification.

Friends of Herring River, L. Southey: Lynn reported that FHR is waiting for one more Letter of Support to file the final *Notice of Intent*. They are *expecting some good news about* federal funding. She also mentioned that the Friends are sponsoring several public *outreach* events around the themes of “*Views of the River*” and “*Voices of the River*” in the coming months.

Housing Partnership, J. Grieb: John reported that the Select Board discussed revisions to the proposed bylaw for building affordable houses on currently unbuildable properties.

CPC, F. Streams: Nothing to report.

NRAB, T. Slack: Tom reported that Jeff Day made a presentation at the recent meeting on reintroducing trout in Fresh Brook. The initiative would require widening the culvert under the Bike Trail and obtaining permission from abutters (private and NPS). In addition, Tom reported that:

- The NRAB voted unanimously to support the Open Space Committee articles for the Town Meeting.
- NRAB will request that the Select Board delete from the NRAB charter the need to prepare a periodic Shellfish Management Plan and to transfer that responsibility to the Shellfish Advisory Board. NRAB will continue to prepare the Harbor Management Plan. A Ponds Management Plan will be added.
- The Flora/Fauna study of the Harbor (an update of the Curley Report), which was withdrawn from the last Town Warrant, will be resubmitted at Town Meeting 2022.
- To date, no proposals have been received for grant to study feasibility of using dredge spoils from Wellfleet harbor to replenish marsh erosion.
- The Board continues its work with partners on monitoring water quality of Town ponds.

Old Business

5-Year Plan: P. Sagan sent the letter to the Select Board and Town Administrator informing them we are in the process of revising the 5-year Open Space and Recreation Plan and asking for their suggestions for soliciting feedback from the community. So far, Ryan Curley is the only one who has responded. He recommended that we organize a couple of in-person workshops in the spring and use the recreation pavilion, booking far in advance. J. Grieb suggested that we try multiple strategies, including conducting a survey and holding public meetings. B. Hurter said we should explore how the Parking Task Force was able to obtain such a high number of responses.

Also, Peggy reported we have received permission from the Town, via Rebecca Roughley, to purchase a one-year contract to Survey Monkey to create a survey to assess community needs and priorities as required for the 5-Year Plan. Peggy will set up the account and get reimbursed for the expense.

Titles on Properties – Bruce has nothing to report at this time.

Review of Access Issues – No discussion.

Review of Property Data – J. Grieb summarized the analysis he had conducted of Town-owned properties, which he had previously distributed to the Committee. He focused on the close to 330 parcels of Vacant Town Land, which is where OSC can look for opportunities for conservation, affordable housing, or other uses beneficial to

the Town. Of particular interest are large areas of contiguous town properties. One is in the National Seashore, "Near Wellfleet by the Sea," consisting of 92 one-acre lots. Because of their location, these lots are unbuildable. The other large area is off King Philip Road, consisting of 121 parcels (161 acres) of tidal shellfish parcels. These two areas account for 254 acres, or 55% of vacant Town-Owned Land. The Committee will discuss these data and the analysis at the March meeting.

Discussion and Review of Proposed Town Policies

- Draft Code of Conduct Policy: The Committee voted unanimously in support of the general principles in the proposed Code of Conduct.
- Proposed Comprehensive Financial Policies: The Committee voted unanimously in support of the Comprehensive Financial Policies and supports continued review of the policies to ensure the financial health of the Town.

P. Sagan will communicate the Committee's support to Rebekah Eldridge by the 2/28 deadline.

Properties for Consideration – No discussion.

New Business

The committee postponed discussion of these agenda items until our next meeting.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 15

Meeting adjourned 5:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sagan, Secretary, OSC