

Open Space Committee
April 26, 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: Denny O'Connell, Wellfleet Conservation Trust

Meeting called to order 4:34 pm

Agenda approved unanimously with two corrections.

Minutes of 2/22/22 had not been received by all members, so consideration was postponed until the May meeting.

Chair Report, B. Hurter: The Planning Board quickly approved the two Town Warrants that we submitted. Bruce thanked J. Grieb for representing the committee at the PB meeting.

As we look ahead to the 2023 Town Meeting, Bruce wants to schedule visits to properties on Paine Hollow Road (Map 29 - 400, 505) and Bond Street (Map 36 - 288, 289) to determine whether we think this land should be protected.

Vice-Chair Report, T. Slack: Tom deferred to J. Grieb, announcing that John had been officially voted in as Vice-Chair of OSC. The members thanked Tom for his many years of service and congratulated John on his new role.

Standing Assignments

Property management, F. Streams: Bruce said that he met with Audrey, the AmeriCorps staffer, and Meredith Ballinger, the new Assistant Health and Conservation Agent, about bringing the property inspection books up to date. Fred and D. O'Connell reported that several problems noted in the inspection books were corrected on some recent work days scheduled by Audrey and Meredith.

Trail Guides, L. Southey: Lynn noted that the map for the Trail Guide sleeve (folder) has been updated and that the folder be reprinted as soon as paper stock is available. Because the current color has been discontinued, a new color will need to be selected.

Community Outreach, P. Sagan: Peggy spoke with Mary Beth Rodman at Wellfleet Elementary School, who now suggests June as the optimal time for OSC to visit the classrooms. Peggy has reached out to the teachers to request a planning meeting. D. O'Connell offered to assist with the activities.

Liaison Reports

WCT, B. Hurter: Bruce asked D. O'Connell to update the committee. Denny said he would like to see consistent signs on all properties, and that agreement needs to be reached on how rules for visitors are worded. ConsCom needs to be informed about these decisions.

Denny announced that WCT Annual Meeting will be held on August 17 at the Chequessett Club. He also said that WCT is pursuing an AmeriCorps placement next year and that the position will be shared with the Town.

Friends of Herring River, L. Southey: Lynn reported that the Wellfleet and Truro Conservation Commissions held a joint public NOI hearing on April 14. The Truro and Wellfleet Conservation Commissions now meet separately in early May to vote on the project. Over 50 letters of support were received. The FHR says that they expect to receive confirmation about a major grant very soon.

The FHR are planning several outreach events in April and May ("Celebrate Herring River Month"), including a call for poetry (to be published in future issues of the FHR newsletter), guided walks, and lectures.

- April 30 - Bob Prescott leads a walk seeking winter birds and early spring migrants.
- May 3 to 31 - art show at Preservation Hall: "Many Views: Restoring our Marsh."
- May 5 - Annawon Weeden, member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, discusses the crucial link between indigenous culture and the fish that sustained them.
- May 7th - John Portnoy leads a short walk to the Chequessett Neck dike to discuss the river's history and plans for tidal restoration.
- May 21 – Celebration of World Fish Migration Day at Gull Pond.

Housing Partnership, J. Grieb: John reported that the Partnership is planning a fundraiser this summer and launching a new website. Their committee's major focus looking ahead is the purchase of the Maurice's property.

John suggested that OSC consider whether there are opportunities to create a buffer zone and preserve open space abutting the bike trail and Marconi. B. Hurter said he assumes a planning committee will be formed and will likely include the Housing Authority and Select Board. Bruce will draft a letter from OSC indicating our interest in being involved in the discussions.

CPC, F. Streams: The committee hasn't met since early January. Fred said that the CPC presents the "needs list" annually to the Select Board, and they want to modify the process. They propose that each organization requesting funds make a 5-minute presentation at upcoming Select Board meetings about a critical community need, and Fred is scheduled to represent OSC in May. Fred suggested that OSC advocate for either:

- Walking paths to link open space, whether town-owned or WCT properties
- Climate change adaptations, specifically to protect salt marshes from sea level rise.

The committee agreed that both are important issues. Bruce advocated for protection of open space abutting marshes as a primary climate change mitigation strategy, and several members agreed.

When asked, Fred confirmed that OSC is guaranteed 10% of CPC funds annually, but we could qualify for more, given specific funding requests. OSC currently has \$73,000 in reserve.

NRAB, T. Slack: Tom reported that the Board is considering expanding the Harbor Survey Plan (the update of the Curley Report), to include assessment of water quality. The major question of how the survey will be funded is still to be resolved.

Old Business

5-Year Plan: P. Sagan reported that the subcommittee has not met in recent weeks due to scheduling problems, but that she is working on the survey for subcommittee review. There is some urgency to finalize the survey if we want to distribute paper copies of the survey at the Town Meeting on June 11. Peggy also expressed concerns about the cost of printing the survey. D. O'Connell said that in his experience, a print version is neither

desirable (it raises issues of public records storage) nor necessary for securing a good response. J. Grieb suggested that we try multiple strategies for promoting the survey online and helping the community access it.

Titles on Properties – Bruce has nothing to report.

Review of Access Issues – No discussion.

Properties for Consideration – No discussion.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 17

Meeting adjourned 5:36 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sagan, Secretary, OSC