

**Wellfleet Open Space Committee Minutes**  
**January 17, 2023, Zoom Meeting**

**Present (via Zoom):** Bruce Hurter, chair; John Grieb, vice chair; Liz McDonald; Peggy Sagan; Tom Slack; Lynn Southey.

*Guest:* Denny O'Connell, WCT

**Meeting called to order 4:32 PM**

Agenda approved.

Minutes of 12/20/22 meeting approved with 1 correction.

Chair report (B. Hurter): Bruce will be presenting our articles for Town Meeting (to establish and fund the Open Space Preservation Fund) to the Select Board this evening at 7:00. His research shows that about 50% of CPA funds spent statewide has been for "projects," not for land purchases. Precedent may allow OSC to utilize CPA funds for "research" related to development of the 5-Year Plan. D. O'Connell suggested that Bruce ask Town Counsel to review our request to use CPA funds for such purposes.

Vice-Chair Report: Nothing to report.

**Standing Assignments**

Trail Guides (L. Southey): Lynn and D. O'Connell will meet this month to review necessary updates to the Trail Guides.

Community Outreach (P. Sagan): Nothing to report re OSC/WCT collaboration with Wellfleet Elementary School this spring.

Property Management: J. Grieb reported that he inspected the properties at Mill Hill Island.

**Liaison Reports**

WCT (B. Hurter): D. O'Connell said WCT is working to finalize acquisition of the half-acre property on Bond Street. The process has been slowed by newly implemented State approval procedures. He also reported that paperwork associated with the HRRP grant from FWS is slow for the negotiations with Ducks Unlimited and US Fish and Wildlife Service re the Herring River Overlook.

Friends of Herring River (L. Southey): Lynn reported much progress:

- Within the week preparations for work begin at the Chequessett Bridge site, including clearing for a staging area at the West end of Duck Harbor Road.
- Natural Heritage has approved the project's Turtle Protection Plan, and a site visit has just taken place to ensure that the staging area is clear of hibernating turtles.
- Clearing of salt-killed vegetation in Duck Harbor, up to 120 acres, starts this week.
- The new FHR executive director, Christa Drew, who lives in Eastham, has started. She is relatively new to the area but has experience as an executive director.

NRAB (T. Slack): Nothing to report.

Housing Partnership (J. Grieb): John reported that the Town is waiting for responses to the RFP to hire a manager to oversee the planning process for the Maurice's property.

CPC: Bruce Hurter is currently filling in for Fred Streams, who has resigned from OSC. He encouraged another member to step forward for this assignment.

## **Old Business**

5-year Plan: P. Sagan reported on the status of the survey.

- Feedback on the survey has been obtained from two members of the Commission on Disabilities and from Melissa Yow of the Rights of Public Access Committee, and their suggestions have been incorporated.
- WCT and the Wellfleet Seasonal Residents Association have agreed to distribute the survey to their membership.
- We are waiting response from the Wellfleet Chamber of Commerce and Town Hall for help in distributing the survey.
- Peggy will also reach out to the Wellfleet Elementary School and Wellfleet Forum for assistance.

The goal is to launch the survey, starting with WSRA, this week, with subsequent “releases” to follow as other organizations respond to our request for assistance. The deadline for response is February 13, but we can extend that date if responses are slow.

To increase the number of survey responses, Peggy asked the Committee to compile their personal distribution lists, including friends, contractors, renters, and neighbors who might not appear on any “official” lists, and to forward the survey to them.

B. Hurter said he will follow up with Town Counsel on the legality of using CPA funds for development of the 5-Year Plan before broaching the topic with the CPC.

## **Properties for Consideration**

No discussion.

**Next Meeting -- TBD**

**Meeting adjourned 5:12 PM**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Peggy Sagan, Secretary*