Open Space Committee. Zoom Meeting: Feb 21, 2023

Present: J Grieb, B Hurter, T Slack, L McDonald, L Southey

Guest: Denny O'Connell, Wellfleet Conservation Trust

Call to order: 4:35 PM

Agenda: Approved

Minutes of Jan 17 meeting deferred to March meeting.

Chairman's Report

Acting chair J Grieb reported on revisions of the plan for an Open Space fund for Community Preservation Act Funds. After discussion with the Selectboard and others a different approach has been suggested from the one discussed in previous meetings. A Warrant Article establishing a Special Purpose Fund for open space will be presented to the Selectboard for the next TM Warrant. The Fund would be under the custody of the Town Treasurer and it would include a portion of the CPC funds allocated by law to open space as well as other potential sources including Town funds and grants. Use of the fund's assets would be determined by the Open Space Committee in close consultation with the Conservation Commission and approval of the Selectboard. Uses would be limited to specific areas defined in the Community Preservation Act. A preliminary version of the Warrant article was reviewed by the Committee. A motion to direct John Grieb to move ahead with the process of placing the article on the Town Warrant was passed 4-0.

Old Business

Open Space Survey: Final results are being tabulated by Peggy Sagan but preliminary results show a strong support for open space by Town residents and nonresident taxpayers. Over 450 individuals completed the survey.

Standing Assignments

Property Management: All properties have been inspected and reports completed.

Trail Guides (LS): Updated and will be distributed.

Liaison Reports

Wellfleet Conservation Trust (BH, DO): No new properties to report. A strategic plan for WCT is being considered.

Housing Partnership (JG): RFP being drafted for a consultant to manage strategy, development, and implementation plans for the Maurice's Campground property before a developer is selected.

NRAB (TS): Work continues on the State of the Ponds report. Multiple meetings have been held with other town pond coalitions, APCC, and scientists at Cape Cod National Seashore. Warrant Articles funding Harbor Survey of aquatic life in Wellfleet Harbor have been withdrawn due to lack of free cash. Estimate of total cost needs to be determined. A consultant is being considered to help with this.

Properties for Consideration

Deferred to next meeting

Meeting adjourned: 5:20pm

Nest OSC meeting: March 21, 2023

Respectfully,

Tom Slack for Peggy Sagan