

Wellfleet Open Space Committee Minutes
March 21, 2023, Zoom Meeting

Present (via Zoom): Bruce Hurter, chair; John Grieb, vice chair; Peggy Sagan; Tom Slack; Lynn Southey.
Guest: Denny O'Connell, WCT

Meeting called to order 4:35 PM

Agenda approved.
Minutes of January and February meetings approved.

Chair report (B. Hurter): Update deferred until liaison reports.

Vice-Chair Report: Nothing to report.

Standing Assignments

Property Management (B. Hurter): Bruce will be meeting with Meredith Ballinger about the property inspection reports when he returns in April.

Trail Guides (L. Southey): Lynn has selected new paper stock for the updated sleeves and expects to see proofs next week. P. Sagan alerted Lynn that we will need approximately 70 complete sets of Trail Guides (existing stock okay to use) for the Wellfleet Elementary School. D. O'Connell has revised text and maps for Fox Island/Pilgrim Springs which he'd like to substitute for the existing version.

Community Outreach (P. Sagan): Mary Beth Rodman has provided teacher contact information for our end-of-year classroom visits and field trips with grades 3, 4, and 5. Peggy and Denny are coordinating dates. John says he is available to assist as needed.

Liaison Reports

WCT (B. Hurter): D. O'Connell reported that WCT is working with the town to secure an easement at the end of Old Chequesset Neck Road to allow access to the Mill Creek Water Control Facility.

Friends of Herring River (L. Southey): Lynn reported that work has begun: a staging area has been set up at the dike and trees are being removed. The Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held at the site on March 31, and a Public Forum is scheduled for April 13, in preparation for Town Meeting (where FHR will present a project update)

NRAB (T. Slack): The committee met with the Dredging Task Force to discuss the proposal to spread dredged material to restore area of salt marsh. The committee is looking into projects in other states that have tried this method of marsh restoration.

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 reported that CPC voted to support the Open Space Preservation Fund, but members of the Select Board expressed some concerns about the structure of the fund and the reporting structure. An

alternative structure was proposed but determined by Town counsel to be not legal. Bruce is working on a counter proposal for the committee to review before submitting it to Select Board.

Old Business

5-year Plan: P. Sagan reported that the survey received 466 responses. She emphasized that the survey was widely promoted to ensure a broad representation of the community. The respondents demonstrate a strong interest in open space and a high level of engagement in Town affairs. For example, almost 60% of those who responded are year-round residents and close to 90% own property in Wellfleet. Over half of those who are eligible are registered to vote here, and those who are registered regularly vote in Town elections and attend Town Meeting.

Results of the survey have been analyzed and will be available in two formats: an Executive Summary and a Report of Detailed Findings. Both are currently in draft stage and ready for the committee's review. The plan is to release the draft Executive Summary first, sending it to town officials and personnel who contributed to the development of the survey and requesting their comments and comments. We will respond to those comments and questions and address them in the Report of Detailed Findings (which will be available upon request and also appended to the 5-Year Plan).

Properties for Consideration

No discussion.

Next Meeting – April 18

Meeting adjourned 5:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sagan, Secretary