

Wellfleet Open Space Committee Minutes

June 27, 2023, Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting called to order 4:31 PM

Agenda approved.

Minutes of April and May meetings approved, with one correction to April minutes.

Chair report (B. Hurter): Bruce announced that Bob Bennett does not appear to be interested in serving on the committee, so we should be pursuing other members as replacements for L. Southey and F. Streams. Although Bruce is stepping down as chair, he looks forward to serving the committee in other roles and assignments. The committee thanked Bruce for his many years of leadership and welcomed J. Grieb in his new role as Chair, effective July 1.

D. O'Connell reported that the current committee – including Fred and Lynn – has been reappointed by the Select Board. Bruce will remind Fred and Lynn that they will need to officially notify Rebekah Eldridge of their resignations.

Vice-Chair Report (J. Grieb): In the consideration of the minutes from April, John pointed out that CPC funds could be spent to improve access to Open Space properties (e.g., ADA compliance), as allowed under the Agricultural and Recreation uses of the CPA.

John also reported that he had received a request from Ryan Curley for the OSC to get involved in the current discussions about mitigation offsets for the harbor dredging project. The Committee asked John to ask Ryan for more information so we can evaluate whether this request falls within our purview as a committee.

Standing Assignments

Property Management (B. Hurter): Nothing to report.

Trail Guides (P. Sagan): Peggy said that she has not been able to schedule time with L. Southey to transfer the files and current stock of trail guides. However, she has arranged with Ginie Page (who serves on the WCT board) to store the current inventory.

D. O'Connell reported that the new sleeve has been printed (qty = 400). He said that he has also arranged printing for the Trail Guide and map for the Herring River Overlook (qty = 400). The Pilgrim Springs/Fox Island Marsh Trail guide also needs to be updated and printed, but for now we can use the existing Trail Guides.

Community Outreach (P. Sagan): Peggy reported on the WES Grades 4 and 5 class visits and field trips. She co-led the Grade 4 in-class lesson with Chip Bruce (WCT) and the field trip to Fox Island Marsh with John Grieb and Chip. The Grade 5 instruction was co-taught by Peggy and Bill Iacuesa (WCT). Chip and Peggy led the fifth graders to Herring River Overlook. The students were engaged and enjoyed the classroom activities and outing. The Grade 4 students wrote thank-you notes, which Peggy will share with Chip and John. We look forward to continuing this partnership with WCT and WES next year.

Denny said that Chip wrote a blog about the field trips and posted it on the WCT website.

Liaison Reports

WCT (B. Hurter): J. Grieb attended the last meeting and gave an update about the Grade 4 field trip

Friends of Herring River (T. Slack): Nothing to report. Tom will set up a transition meeting with L. Southey.

Housing Partnership (B. Hurter): No progress to report.

CPC (J. Grieb): John has been elected to the CPC, just as the Committee adjourns for summer break. There is a party this week for the several CPC members who are retiring.

NRAB (T. Slack): A meeting is scheduled for later this week.

Old Business

5-year Plan: The subcommittee has resumed meetings on the 5-Year Plan. The next meeting is Thursday, July 6, at 4:30.

Titles on Properties in Con Com Care (B. Hurter): No action.

Access Issues: No action.

Properties for Consideration

J. Grieb had some conversations with Nancy Vale, Ryan Curley, and Hillary Greenberg about the status of the Blue Heron properties. He has summarized his findings and will send them to the Committee for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Denny was advised by Mark Robinson that Town Meeting approval is not required to accept donations/gifts of conservation land to the Town, if approved by the Select Board.

Next Meeting – July 25 (one week delay)

Meeting adjourned 5:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sagan, Secretary