

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

February 6, a public hybrid meeting in the Collins Room

* Action items and votes below in bold face

- 6:30 PM, Rosa opens the meeting. Committee pledges allegiance to the flag. Roll call and introductions:
Present: (In person): John Bartlett, Jack Bowen, Justin Damon, Marlies Henderson, Michael Rosa
(Remotely): Maria Martin, Mike Parker, Katie Shubin
Staff: (In person): Jessie Hampson, Assistant Director of Recreation; Katherine Malgieri
Consultants: (Remotely): Peter Flinker, Eli Bloch, Shaine Meulmester
Public: Andrew Jennings, Cheryl Ronzio
- (1) Open mic: Jennings offered 3 handouts:
 - Arbor Day brochure to help purchase 100 saplings. **Kat** will research how it can be utilized.
 - A Jeff Speck Walkable City quote on tree-planting.
 - Info on a municipal reforestation bill, S452/H869. There was no motion (yet) to provide a letter of support.
- (2) Bartlett moves to accept:
 - the 1/7 *minutes* as presented, seconded by Bowen. Roll call **vote**: Bartlett, yes; Bowen, yes; Damon, yes; Henderson, yes; Martin, yes; Parker, yes; Rosa, yes; Shubin abstain or 7-0-1.
 - The 1/28 field trip *minutes* as amended, seconded by Damon. Roll call **vote**: Bartlett, yes; Bowen, yes; Damon, yes; Henderson, yes; Martin, yes; Parker, yes; Rosa, yes; Shubin yes, or 7-0-0. Rosa asks **Henderson** to email amended minutes to all members.
- (3) A hard copy handout summarizes *updates for Section 3 and 4 of the OSRP*, for member review, due by Thursday, February 7, 2024. Submit with **Kat**, who will communicate with D&F.
 - The consultant update is threefold:
 - i) Shaine shares her screen to display an open space *inventory* as a color-coded map and as a spreadsheet, with the request that members review newly added parcels (existing is in green) for accuracy. Discussion ensues on coloring of 61A and 61B. **Kat** will forward the inventory documents as well as a version of multi-colored existing parcels for **Homework for all members**: noting that it is due back to her by February 20!
 - ii) Eli shares monkey-survey results: 579 completed entrees, summarized, and ranked based on a weighted scoring model. Henderson finds some responses dubious due to vague definitions, particularly on how respondents understand “conservation land” and “recreation land”; a grain of salt is in order. Peter agrees that this type of survey is a general (non-scientific) tool, and one shouldn’t base decisions on it. Rosa asks that a footnote to that effect be included in the plan.
 - iii) Peter presents a *Strategic Plan* Matrix pyramid format: From top (Vision) gradually down to Values, Goals, Objectives, Actions. He provides an example. A hard copy handout circulates so members can enter responsible parties and prioritize actions with Low, Medium or High. This **Homework for all members** is also due back to her by February 20! **Kat** will send electronic copies as a reminder.
 - Relative to the *March 20 Public Forum*, Rosa is concerned that the number of participants may trend further down (even if 50% of 20 participants attended through zoom). Discussion ensues on reasons for low attendance on a frigid January evening, and outreach. Peter suggests intentional

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neighborhood representative recruitment; "give residents something to react to". Cheryl (public) suggests the message board in the Center. Martin will share the flyer with Disability Commissioners. Shubin will provide a blast on Facebook.

- Going forward, D&F and staff will meet Rosa requests that presentation ppt and pdf slides be shared prior to the meeting as *committee member review packet*.
- In reply to Jennings (public) question, D&F will update the *ADA portion* of the 2018 OSRP.
- Discussion ensues on Open Space overlay zoning bylaws and tax rates as tools to protect open space. Peter clarifies confusion. Town land can be protected by putting it under control of the Conservation Commission. A clarification will be added to the OSRP.
- **Old Business**
 - (4a) Buckingham: Clancy emailed Rosa: No follow up from National Grid after the Town submitted the consent form relative to removing the unasked-for gate and no-trespass sign.
 - (4b) CSX denies ownership of Right-of-Way. Eichman (KP Law) does an expedited title review.
 - (4c) Henderson reports that the owner of the 2-acre Gilson Hill parcel refused the offer of the appraised value of \$800,000. The owner reportedly said an offer of \$1.5M is under agreement. However, no buyer has contacted any Town Department to date.
- (5) Next OSRPC (hybrid) meeting date: February 12, at 6:30 PM in the Collins Room
- (6) Motion to adjourn by Bartlett, seconded by Damon. Roll call **vote**: Bartlett, yes; Bowen, yes; Damon, yes; Henderson, yes; Martin, yes; Parker, yes, Rosa, yes (unanimous) or 7-0-0.
The meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marlies Henderson

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