

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

DPW CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR at 7:30 pm

MARSHFIELD TOWN HALL

MARSHFIELD, MA

A meeting of the Marshfield Open Space Committee ("the Committee") was called to order at 7:30 pm. Chairperson Karen O'Donnell (KO), members Vicki McPherson (VM), Tom Whalen (TW), Bob Shaughnessy (BS), Chris Ciocca (CC) and Sue MacCallum (SM) and Chad Haitsma (CH) were present. Michael Biviano (MB) was absent.

There were no minutes to review.

The next meeting date was tentatively set for June 16, 2016.

UPDATES:

Pratt Property Trails & Kayak Launch

VM reported that Gail Hunter is donating a granite bench that will be installed at the site of the canoe/kayak launch. She stated that there might be some difficulty getting the bench to the site. She thinks they will need a truck with a crane. It will have a cement footing and that Seone Landscaping will be doing the preparation. BS asked where it was going. VM replied that it would be located on the far side of the Keville Bridge from CVS. The Committee discussed whether or not the bidding process and construction of the kayak launch could be completed for the public to use in this season. After a lengthy discussion, TW made a motion to send a letter to Pat Brennan at Amory Engineers requesting a timeline for permitting, bidding and construction for the kayak launch and the Pratt property improvements. Seconded by BS. All voted in favor.

Conservation Restrictions

There was a long discussion of the outstanding CRs. CC inquired about the properties that have been purchased with existing CRs on portions of the property. It was thought that the new CR could supersede the existing but it appears that any change in an existing CR would require an act of the legislature to change. SM reported on the Bennett property

and the need for a survey of the back edge where there appears to be encroachment. She has talked with Jay and is waiting on information from him. It was noted that there is no money left in that account for a survey or CR. Discussion continued regarding the possibility of going to CPC for monies to fund surveys and for the increased cost of CRs from initial estimates given some 5-6 years ago.

Comprehensive Trails Study

TW reported on some of the recommendations coming out of the study. There are eleven new trails suggested in addition to improved signage, trail parking, maintenance, etc. They want to pave and widen the bridle path. TW does not believe that BL Industries met the goals set forth in the RFP. SM wants the maps to identify the parcels that are owned by entities other than the Town (i.e. Audubon, TTOR, Wildlands). TW stated that the intern working with Jay in Conservation had done a lot of the maps that are now being duplicated by this study. CC asked about the cost of paving. According to TW, it would be about \$3 million. BS and SM suggested a cooperative effort utilizing Chapter 90 monies for sidewalks that would complement the trail system.

310 Furnace Street

KO reported that we had been awarded the DWSP grant from the state. Annual Town Meeting had voted to approve the purchase of this property. She did feel that there are TM members who do not share in the belief that preserving open space actually saves the community dollars and does not cost us by taking property off the tax rolls. She suggested that the Committee be proactive and work on developing a public/media discussion to educate people on the value of open space to the community. CC suggested more support at Town Meeting.

DISCUSSION:

OSRP Update Process

Discussion continued on how to go forward. Members continue to push for securing funds to hire out portions of the update. The ADA self-assessment and transition plan will be a huge part of this update and should be subbed out. Mapping will also need to be subbed out. General inquiries to outside consultants have resulted in estimates as much as \$35,000. The OSRP update is required by the state. Without an

OSRP in place, the Town would not be eligible for any grant funding. TW made a motion to request up to \$35,000 from CPC administrative funds for the 2017 OSRP Update. Seconded by BS. All voted in favor.

Open Space Land Acquisition Policy

KO will send out TW's suggestions on the OS land acquisition policy in a word document format for review and comments. She will inquire about the possibility of having someone from Wildlands come to speak about alternatives to fee simple purchases of open space.

KO made a motion at 9:23 pm to enter into executive session not to return to regular session, for real property discussion because discussion in an open session may be detrimental to the Committee's negotiating position. TW seconded. Roll call vote: TW yes, VM yes, CC yes, BS yes, SM yes, CH and KO yes.

Submitted by Karen O'Donnell