

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

HEARING RM., 2ND FLOOR at 7 pm

MARSHFIELD TOWN HALL, MARSHFIELD, MA

A meeting of the Marshfield Open Space Committee (“the Committee”) was called to order by the Chair, Susan Caron (SC) at 7:10 pm.

Members, Karen O’Donnell (KO), Sue MacCallum (SM) and Craig C. Hannafin (CCH) were present. Chris Ciocca (CC) and Steve Goodhue (SG) were absent.

Also present, Carolyn Shanley, resident and member of the Town’s Historic Commission.

SC suggested that the Committee move the agenda discussion with Carolyn forward. All members agreed.

Carolyn discussed at length Historic Districts in Massachusetts and how they can be used to maintain the character of neighborhoods. It would involve a by-law change, a study and town meeting approval. They typically involve restrictions to the exterior. CCH asked if there were any in town now. Carolyn explained that there is a historic designation in the Hills but that differs from a historic district. SM asked what would define a district. Carolyn stated it would be determined by the study group. CCH mentioned that, although historic is included in the Master Plan, it has no legal teeth. A historic district committee could be an important tool in developing by-law/ordinance changes. It would offer some control and another hurdle for developers. SM suggested that it could develop a pride in neighborhood and community. SC agrees it would be helpful to learn more about the Historic Designations and how it could affect future developments. Carolyn will continue research using the Mass Cultural Resource Info System.

SC thanked Carolyn for her interest in moving this forward and, knowing that she will be continuing her research, asked her to keep the Committee up to date with information and the possibility of co-sponsoring town meeting articles.

Minutes Review: SC made a motion to approve the regular session minutes for July 15, 2021. Seconded by CCH. The motion was unanimously approved. Approved minutes will be sent to the Town Clerk.

It was decided to table discussion and approval of the regular session minutes of September 29, 2021, until the Committee's next meeting.

There was a brief discussion of the Davidson acquisition approval at town meeting. Wildlands Trust will hold the CR and will be starting the process of scheduling a walk through with their lands committee.

The Recreational Trails update will be taken up at our next meeting.

Discussion continued on the mitigation conservation restrictions (CR). CCH reported on the debate within the Conservation Commission of Article 97 vs. non-town entity CRs. CCH had spoken with Karen Grey and learned about Wildlands Trust's interest in holding the CRs and their previous work on the draft CRs. There is real concern within the Committee that it does not offer enough protection and without a CR following the properties, there is the possibility of the land being at risk for development in the future.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 9, 2021.

At 8:34 pm, SC made a motion to enter executive session, not returning to regular session, for real property discussion because discussion in an open session may be detrimental to the Committee's negotiating position. Second SM. Roll call vote: SC yes, SM yes, CCH yes and KO yes.

**Submitted by
Karen O'Donnell,
Clerk**