

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017

HEARING ROOM 3, 2ND FLOOR at 7 pm

MARSHFIELD TOWN HALL, MARSHFIELD, MA

A meeting of the Marshfield Open Space Committee ("the Committee") was called to order at 7:18 pm. Chairperson Karen O'Donnell (KO), members Chad Haitsma (CH), Chris Ciocca (CC) and Sue MacCallum (SM) were present. Vicki McPherson (VM) and Bob Shaughnessy (BS) were absent.

Also present was resident, Priscilla Maglio.

The Committee reviewed regular and executive session minutes for January 12, 2017. KO made a motion to accept the regular and executive session minutes for January 12, 2017 as written. Seconded by SM. CC, CH, SM and KO voted to accept.

The next meeting date was tentatively set for February 9, 2017. The Committee will interview respondents to the Committee's Request for Proposals to update the 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan ("OSRP"). It was noted that BSC Group and Horsley and Witten were the two firms that had responded. KO distributed a copy of each firm's proposal to the members for their review. A discussion ensued regarding the interview process. It was decided to allot 45 minutes to each firm for a presentation, followed by a question and answer period.

The Committee responded to inquiries from Ms. Maglio on how often the Committee met. Although the Committee typically meets once a month, meetings were sometimes scheduled less often depending on pending business. It was noted that some meetings had been cancelled for lack of quorum. The Committee had requested changes to the make-up of the Committee, and the Selectmen had voted to reduce the Committee from nine to seven members.

UPDATES:

Pratt Property

KO reported that the Project Manager, Pat Brennan from Amory Engineering, would be putting the trail improvements and canoe/kayak

launch project out to bid on the Central Register February 8th edition. At the same time an ad will be placed in the Mariner. He recommends leaving the bid period open for three weeks. A pre-bid meeting will be scheduled for February 17th, and bids would be opened March 1st at 2pm.

KO reported that the disposition of the buildings on the property will be discussed again at the Selectmen's meeting scheduled for Monday, January 30th.

CPC Application

KO reported that she had attended the CPC meeting on January 18th. Although no vote was taken, they will entertain a request for \$20,000 in CPA funds and a placeholder will be placed on the warrant. If approved, the funds will be used to pay for underfunded conservation restrictions and surveys.

DISCUSSION:

OSRP Update

As noted earlier, the Committee had received two proposals to update the 2010 OSRP. Members discussed developing questions to ask during the February 9th interviews. SM noted that questions should be designed to inform the Committee on the best match for our community. CH recommended 5-6 questions. BS and VM will be contacted to make sure that they can be present at the interviews. KO will ask Bill Grafton and Greg Guimond to attend as well or to suggest questions.

Ms. Maglio asked if the Committee had researched the update process in other towns. SM replied that the Committee had looked at other surrounding and coastal towns. Ms. Maglio asked if the hiring of a consultant had been before Town Meeting. She commented that the Town "oozes" money. Committee members replied that the update process requires a significant amount of time. The present OSRP plan will expire in June, 2017. If an update has not been completed and submitted, the Town will not be eligible to apply for any grants. SM noted that the plan, once approved, will be good for seven years.

The Committee discussed the draft survey questions. Changes and additions were discussed and approved. KO will have the survey put on

SurveyMonkey and a test link will be sent to Committee members before it is sent to Jon Nash. It was decided that the survey should go out in early February and be available for the whole month. That schedule will allow us to gather important information for the update and the consultant. An ad in the Mariner will direct and encourage the community to complete the survey online at the Town website. Hard copies will also be available at Town Hall, the Library, Recreation office and the Senior Center. CH asked how we know if the respondent is a Marshfield resident. KO will make an inquiry to determine the answer.

Ms. Maglio left the meeting.

KO made a motion at 8:10 pm to enter 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. CC seconded. Roll call vote: CH yes, CC yes, SM yes and KO yes.

Submitted by Karen O'Donnell