

## OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017

HEARING ROOM 3, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR at 7:15 pm

MARSHFIELD TOWN HALL, MARSHFIELD, MA

A meeting of the Marshfield Open Space Committee ("the Committee") was called to order at 7:25 pm. Chairperson Karen O'Donnell (KO), members Sue MacCallum (SM), Chad Haitsma (CH) and Chris Ciocca (CC) were present. Vicki McPherson (VM) and Kevin Cantwell (KC) were absent. Susan Caron, representing the Friends of South River Park, was also present.

South River Park Sponsorship: Susan Caron gave a brief description of the Friends group she represents and provided background into their considerable volunteer effort in improving and maintaining the South River Park. Despite continued efforts to control encroachment by an invasive weed, a total restoration of the existing stone dust path is necessary. She asked the Committee to consider co-sponsoring a Friends of South River Park application for funding through CPC (approximately \$8,000 for meadow and the walkway restorations). Susan referenced the recently completed draft Open Space and Recreation Plan ADA self-evaluation and transition plan and the recommendation contained therein to improve the walking path and to install a handrail in the area near the Veteran's Memorial Wall to comply with ADA requirements. The CPC funding application will also include a request to rehabilitate the wildflower meadow. Susan has applied for a grant to restore the meadow. Proper ADA surfacing was discussed – stone dust, packed gravel and paving. CH recommended Susan talk to Bill Grafton. CH stated the park is a decent site worth supporting. After discussion, KO made a motion that the Open Space Committee co-sponsor the Friends of South River Park application for funding through CPC to restore the stone dust walking path, to install a handrail near the Veteran's Memorial Wall to fully comply with ADA regulation and to rehabilitate the wildflower meadow. Seconded by SM. Approved unanimously.

Pratt Property Improvements: KO reported that, with the installation of the bollards, the contract with Dandel is complete. KO reported on the handicap parking space provided by CVS. Greg Guimond has

recommended a “switchback” to allow ADA access down to the rail trail from the handicap parking space. It is estimated that this will cost \$5,000. Signage is also needed for the kiosks at the Pratt property. There was a discussion of using any excess money from the Pratt trail improvement fund to construct the switchback and produce appropriate signage for the property. All members present agreed that it was appropriate to use excess funds for this purpose.

Conservation Restrictions: There was a discussion of the Historic Commission’s decision to invoke the 1-year Historic Demolition By-law and how that decision has also delayed the recording of the already completed and signed Conservation Restriction. KO asked if the Committee would like to ask the Historic Commission for a reconsideration of this decision. It was suggested that Town Counsel be consulted. CC made a motion to engage Town Counsel in drafting a letter to the Historical Commission requesting reconsideration of their decision with regard to the demolition of the Pratt buildings. Seconded by SM. Approved unanimously.

Maryland Street Trail Improvements: KO asked about signage at this site. Susan Caron stated that there is a CPA sign and a stone marker engraved with Jose Carriero Woodlands located near the boundary with the Trustees’ 2-Mile Reservation property. She stated that there is no CPA sign at the cul de sac at the end of Maryland Street. There is a kiosk, but it has no signage. The Committee discussed what is covered by acquisition funds, and it was the consensus of the Committee that signage is included in acquisition funding. After discussion, CC made a motion that the Committee draft a letter to CPC instructing them to release funds from the Maryland Street acquisition fund to the Recreational Trails Committee for creation of appropriate standardized signage in the Maryland Street kiosk. Seconded by CH. Approved unanimously.

Draft regular and executive session minutes for 3/15/17, 4/26/17, 5/17/17, 6/21/17 and 8/10/17 were distributed for review. All members present approved of the minutes as written for the meetings that they attended. A formal vote to approve the minutes was deferred to the next meeting so that other members, not present at this meeting, will have an opportunity to review.

At 8:20 pm KO made a motion 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. Seconded by CH. Roll call vote: CC yes, CH yes, SM yes and KO yes.

**Submitted by Karen O'Donnell**