

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018

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 7:05 pm. Chairperson Karen O’Donnell (KO), members Chris Ciocca (CC), Vicki McPherson (VM) and Sue MacCallum (SM) were present. Kevin Cantwell (KC) and Chad Haitsma (CH), were absent.

Residents Ned Bangs, Dawn Snow, Steve Darcy and Erin Fitzpatrick were also present.

Minutes Review: Regular session minutes for September 20, 2018 were reviewed. KO made a motion to approve regular session minutes for September 20, 2018. Seconded by VM. The minutes were approved as written. CC abstained.

Old Business:

Pratt Property: KO reported that she had talked with Bill Grafton about paying for decommissioning of the canoe and kayak launch. Bill indicated that he had no money in his budget. KO sent an email to the Town Administrator and Treasurer/Collector looking for funds to remove the ramp & float now and for a department to take over the cost going forward. She was directed to send the invoice for the 2018 decommissioning and 2019 commissioning to them for payment. The cost will be added to the Harbormaster’s budget for FY20. The ramp has been put up on the bridge and the float is at the Marshfield Yacht Club for storage.

Recreational Trail Signage: VM reported on the status of kiosk signage at the Jose Carreiro Woodlands. The sign is not finished. She will forward the invoice to OS/CPC as soon as the sign work is completed and installed. There was further discussion of the signage for the Rail Trail, Pratt property and Corn Hill. Pat Brennan had provided CAD mapping for use with the Pratt signage.

Ned Bangs, a member of the Recreation Trails Committee (RTC), provided a handout and gave a detailed report on the RTC's FY19 Trails proposal to CPC. He gave the history and use of the Bridle/Rail Trail and referenced the 2016 Comprehensive Trails Plan. He also detailed the proposed improvements. CC inquired about the condition of the trail. It was noted that, in general, it is in fair condition. There are some areas on the Bridle trail containing soft sand, asphalt and cinder. The whole trail would need to be graded. Mr. Bangs reported that recent tree cutting and clearing by Eversource had resulted in wood that will be cut and split and provided to residents in need of firewood at the Recreation Center located at Coast Guard Hill, off Ferry Street.

Dog Park: KO recognized Steve Darcy to discuss his efforts to locate a suitable property for construction of a dog park. If a town owned parcel can be identified, the Town would be able to apply to the Stanton Foundation for a possible \$225,000 maximum grant opportunity. KO provided the Committee with a handout of information she had received from Mr. Darcy. The handout shows drawings of the proposed Scituate dog park, the Kingston dog park, construction costs from projects completed in other towns and a Stanton Foundation checklist of cost items to consider in developing a draft construction budget. Mr. Darcy has formed a non-profit 501(3C) and has raised \$7,000 through organized fundraisers. The money will be used to provide maintenance at the park. He has and will continue to communicate with the design engineer of the Kingston dog park, Benjamin Fairbanks. CC asked about the Town's risk. Mr. Darcy replied that an owner would be responsible for any damage and/or injury inflicted by their dog. It is his understanding that there is a law governing recreation on town owned land that absolves the Town of responsibility for damages and/or injury as long as the town does not charge a fee. It was noted that the recently approved Open Space and Recreation Plan indicates a desire by residents for a town dog park. Discussion continued with Mr. Darcy, Dawn Snow and Erin Fitzpatrick on how the Committee can assist in locating a suitable parcel for this use. SM commented that the parcel should be easily accessible, not wet and able to provide adequate parking. The site should be ADA accessible. Mr. Darcy indicated that the Coast Guard parcel located at the top of Coast Guard hill had been investigated, but the USCG is not interested in divesting its ownership at this time. Conservation land was discussed, and it was suggested that

Mr. Darcy find out from Town Counsel if conservation land without conservation restrictions are still considered Article 97 land. It was noted that, in other communities, dog parks are located close to other recreation sites. The Recreation Center area on Ferry Street was suggested. Parking, water and electricity are already present at the site. Mr. Bangs (the former Recreation Director) was not in favor. It was noted that the Recreation Commission did not support this location for a dog park because of its close proximity to fields presently being utilized by youth sports. Possible acquisition of a parcel abutting the Recreation center was discussed. The Committee discussed the Treasurer/Collector and BOS intentions to pursue certain properties that are currently in tax title. Perhaps there is a property included in that list that could be considered for this use. The Treasurer or Town Administrator should be consulted. VM asked about the Hall property and the RTC's desire to acquire it for extension of the rail trail system. KO did not know if that property was on the list, but she will follow up on a previously sent email inquiry. After discussion, the Committee offered continued assistance in the search for a suitable location. Mr. Darcy, Dawn Snow and Erin Fitzpatrick left the meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2018.

CPA FY2019 Application: KO reported that she had filed an application with CPC for \$20,000 to be used for potential survey and/or legal work on CPA/CR properties that may need to be supported and defended. A brief discussion ensued as to the need for this. KO had asked Town Counsel if this was an appropriate use of CPA funds but had not received a reply. KO was directed to make another attempt for guidance from the Town Administrator and Town Counsel.

At 9:15 pm, KO made a motion 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. Seconded by SM. Roll Call vote: CC yes, VM yes, SM yes and KO yes.

Submitted by Karen O'Donnell

RTC handout, Dog Park handout