

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019

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 7:07 pm. Chairperson Karen O'Donnell (KO), members Chad Haitsma (CH), Kevin Cantwell (KC), Chris Ciocca (CC) and Sue MacCallum (SM) were present.

Minutes Review: Regular session minutes for October 31, 2019 were reviewed. KO made a motion to approve regular session minutes for October 31, 2019. Seconded by SM. KC, SM, CH & KO approved the minutes as written. CC abstained.

Acquisition & Project Account Balances and RTC Signage: KO reported that CPC had requested a review of land acquisition and open space project accounts. She provided the Committee with a list of open account balances. It was noted that the Committee had contributed monies for the recreational trail signage at the Maryland Street site and the Committee had previously voted to return the remaining balance to CPC. There was discussion of the other open accounts and if, at the request of the RTC, the Committee would disburse funds from certain accounts to pay for signage. The RTC had also asked if the Committee would be able to contribute any funds towards the design fee and provided the cost estimates for signage at Pratt, John Little (Goggin & Jomat), Rail Trail/Bridle Path and Webster's Wilderness. It was noted that the RTC had made application to CPC and received funding for trail signage at Town meeting. Discussion touched on the appearance of "double dipping" by the RTC and the appropriateness of expending funds for design costs from acquisition accounts when it was not clear if that cost was included in the Town meeting land acquisition request and appropriation. Committee members debated including these costs in all future acquisitions or having the RTC make application to CPC for said funds. CC asked if the returned balances would be returned to the Open Space reserves. KC believed so but would check.

CC made a motion to appropriate \$4,000 from acquisition/project accounts for Goggin, Pratt Trails and Pilgrim Trail for sign allotment. Seconded by KO. It was unanimously approved.

CC then made a motion to close out all remaining open space acquisition accounts and that the funds be returned to Open Space reserves. Seconded by CH. It was unanimously approved.

Review 2019 Land Use & Chapter 61/Open Space Land Maps: KO shared maps she had received from Greg Guimond. The maps had been prepared by an intern in the Planning office. The Committee reviewed and commented favorably on the exceptional detail and content.

Open Space Officers, Policy and Planning: KO reported that she had met with Michael Maresco on a possible membership change. At the Committee's October meeting, it was decided to maintain seven members and to ask the BOS to consider changing the ConCom and Recreation representative seats that have remained unfilled to at-large positions. Mr. Maresco said he would forward the request to the BOS.

KO also shared the Committee's draft of the duties of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary with Mr. Maresco. He commented that it should include reference to the BOS's newly adopted attendance policy. KO asked about an annual budget. Mr. Maresco asked where that would come from. He offered that the Committee should maintain invoices of any costs incurred in the normal course of business and submit them to the Town Administrator for payment or reimbursement.

The Committee approved the Duties of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary document with the noted revisions.

Next Meeting Date: Tentatively scheduled for January 9, 2020.

At 8:08 pm KO 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. Seconded by CC. Roll call vote: CC yes, SM yes, CH yes, KC yes and KO yes.

Submitted by Karen O'Donnell

Account Balances

Duties of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary