

Hamilton Open Space Committee
Minutes of Meeting of December 7, 2016
Meeting Held at Hamilton Wenham Library

Members Present: Gretel Clark, Jackie Hodge, Emer McCourt, Rosemary Kennedy,
Anne Gero

Ms. Hodge opened the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Patton Homestead Open Space

Ms. Gero reviewed the memo and plans that she had drafted. She explained that she created these documents with the notion that they could be shared with Town officials and other interested parties in order to begin a dialogue re: the open space at the Patton Homestead and how best to optimize its use by the public.

Ms. Gero and Ms. Clark then explained the concept of having a working group of interested parties come up with a detailed open space plan. This working group could be coordinated by the Open Space Committee (OSC) who would from time to time invite representatives of the Conservation Commission, Greenbelt, ECTA, the Hamilton Recreation Department, the Town Manager, the Homestead, etc. The OSC working group would report regularly to the Conservation Commission. Scott Maddern strongly supports such a working group as he stated during a recent meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Gero noted that meetings of the working group would have to be attended by less than a quorum of the OSC in order to avoid application of the Open Meeting Law. (Subsequent research showed this to be incorrect.) Ms. Clark, Ms. McCourt and Ms. Gero volunteered to reach out to the interested parties and organize these meetings.

The members then discussed some general use concepts for the Patton open space such as whether dogs and horses should be permitted and, if so, under what conditions.

The members then discussed the written comments submitted by Mr. Peters. While the members agreed with most of Mr. Peters' comments, they concluded that a number of them were too detailed for the memo in question. It was decided that the OSC should keep track of several of those comments so that they could be included/discussed at a later point. Those comments consisted of the following:

- the O&M plan for each phase should detail all ongoing needs (plowing and trail maintenance, etc) and identify potential future actions/costs.

- the O&M plan should consider criteria and issues (wetlands) and costs associated with putting stone dust or other sturdier surfacing materials in the parking areas or entrance from Asbury Street
- it should be determined if the old Patton Well has been properly abandoned to prevent potential contaminants from being preferentially introduced to Town's Zone 2 and drinking water aquifer
- rules/prohibited uses could include: all users must yield to horses, pack-in/pack-out, no drones, pick up after your dogs

Ms. McCourt noted that she had some additional comments that she would send to Ms. Gero by email the next day.

Ms. McCourt left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

The remaining members discussed finalization of the memo and to whom it would be distributed. It was unanimously agreed that Ms. Gero would redraft the memo and plans consistent with the discussion and any further comments received from Ms. McCourt and then arrange for the same to be distributed to the Conservation Commission prior to its site walk at the Homestead on December 10th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.