

Hamilton Open Space Committee
Minutes of Meeting of October 3, 2016
Held at Hamilton Wenham Library

Members Present: Nancy Baker, Jackie Hodge, Anne Gero, Rosemary Kennedy, Gretel Clark

Ms. Baker opened the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the August 31, 2016 and September 8, 2016 meetings were approved unanimously.

Patton Homestead

Ms. Baker summarized the presentations given to the Conservation Commission on September 14 and 28, 2016 regarding OCS concerns at the Patton property. The Conservation Commission noted with interest the points about the boundaries and drainage of the Patton Ridge project, and acknowledged that it would be helpful if the dedicated open space associated with the Patton Ridge property could be expanded to include the canoe launch area. The Conservation Commission, however, did not seem interested in becoming involved in the other areas of the Homestead or the parking lot issues since they did not hold title to that portion of the property. The Conservation Commission noted that it didn't believe that a detailed open space plan was needed for the areas under its jurisdiction but that something more in the nature of a maintenance plan would be appropriate.

Ms. Clark then presented to the OSC an outline of a "Visioning Statement" for the use and maintenance of the open space at the Patton Property. After discussion, it was agreed that it would be useful to continue to develop such a document and present it to various Town boards and committees.

With respect to the siting of a parking lot on the property to serve the Homestead building, it was agreed that the best solution would be to have a grass lot in the field immediately adjacent to Asbury Street. It was also strongly noted that the construction of any lot would be premature given that the use of the Patton Homestead has not yet been decided. Ms. Gero presented to the OSC for consideration a draft letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding the decision making process for the siting and construction of the parking lot. It was agreed that members would send comments to Ms. Gero for incorporation, and that she would send the final document to Ms. Baker for signature as Chair of the OSC. It was further agreed that Ms. Gero would send the signed letter to the Board of Selectmen, and then appear at their next meeting to read it into the record.

Scenic Road By-law

Ms. Hodge noted that she had not received from Patrick Reffett or Jim Hankin any response to the letter she recently sent to them re: the roads in Hamilton that have been designated as scenic roads. It was agreed that Ms. Hodge would follow up with them.

Associate Members

Ms. Hodge again reiterated the need to have associate members in order to bring new blood and energy into the OSC. She posed the question whether the OSC should put a notice in the newspaper or on Facebook. It was agreed that members would do individual outreach to people they thought might be interested.

Goals for the Open Space and Recreation Plan ("OSRP")

It was agreed to postpone discussion of the OSRP goals until the next meeting of the Committee.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the OSC would meet again on Wednesday, October 26th at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Prep: A. Gero