

Hamilton Open Space Committee
Minutes of Meeting of March 16, 2016
Held at Hamilton Library

Members Present: Jacqueline Hodge, Zachary Peters, Anne Gero, Rosemary Kennedy, Gretel Clark, Emer McCourt, Nancy Baker (arrived at 6:20)

Also in attendance: George Tarr, Sean Farrell, Peter Clark (arrived at 6:30)

Ms. Hodge opened the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the February 22, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

Coordinator Position

Ms. Hodge asked whether any members were interested in volunteering for the Coordinator position that was vacated by Ms. Gero, and stressed the importance of the role. None of the members volunteered and a brief discussion ensued regarding whether the duties of the Coordinator could be shared among the members. Given that the role has not been filled, the members agreed to proceed on this basis.

Town-wide Survey

Mr. Farrell made a brief presentation on the Town-wide survey that the Board of Selectmen would like to perform at some point following the Annual Town Meeting. He explained that the proposed survey would be based on the 2002 survey but would be updated to take out questions that are no longer applicable and to insert several new ones. The goal would be to understand how the opinion of the voters may have changed since 2002 given progress made on several issues and the current demographics of the Town.

The OSC voiced support for the proposed survey and noted that the results would be quite helpful for completing the goals and the 5 year action plan sections of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Mr. Farrell explained that this survey would be administered electronically and would be open to any resident over 18. This is different from the 2002 survey which was mailed to each household and was limited to one response per household. A discussion ensued regarding whether the change in the administration of the survey would make it difficult to compare the results of the new survey to the results of the 2002 survey.

Mr. Clark reviewed with the members the results from the 2002 survey and the ways in which it had been analyzed. He also noted that in 2002 high school students did door-to-door follow up to increase the response rate.

The members had no recommended changes to the survey questions relating to open space. They did, however, have suggestions on other questions for the survey. These included questions on synthetic turf fields, cell phone coverage, communication of town matters, and farming and sustainable agriculture.

It was agreed that if the members had any other specific comments they should send them directly to Mr. Farrell.

Mission Statement

Mr. Peters distributed to the members the current draft of the mission statement and asked for any further comments. A brief discussion ensued during which several edits were agreed.

Ms. Bake made a motion that the members approve the Mission Statement subject to the agreed edits being incorporated by Mr. Peters. The motion was unanimously approved.

Property Adjacent to Sagamore Hill Project

Mr. Peters said that he had collected information regarding a property adjacent to the Sagamore Hill project that is currently for sale for \$1.3 million. Mr. Tarr expressed his view of the importance of this property from an open space perspective.

Mr. Peters agreed to bring his information to the next meeting of the Committee for additional discussion.

Open Space and Recreation Plan ("OSRP")

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

By-Law Revisions

Ms. Gero explained that the Planning Board agreed at its recent meeting to recommend at the Annual Town Meeting that no action be taken on the warrant regarding the "Phase 1" revision of the Town by-laws. She further explained that Ms. Clark and others had put together a citizen's petition that will be considered at the Annual Town Meeting. This petition would transfer site plan review from the Zoning Board of Appeals to the Planning Board.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the OSC would meet again on Tuesday, April 12th at 6:00

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.