

Hamilton Open Space Committee
Minutes of Meeting of June 6, 2017
Meeting Held at Hamilton Wenham Library

Members Present: Gretel Clark, Jackie Hodge, Zach Peters, Rosemary Kennedy, Marcia Dolce

The meeting opened at 6:35 pm.

Ms. Hodge noted and all agreed that she would administratively run the meeting.

Approval of Prior Minutes

The members unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of April 13th and May 4th. Ms. Hodge will provide the minutes to Jim Hankin.

Patton Homestead Open Space

a. Patton Riverwalk

Ms. Clark presented a mockup for the sign for the Patton Homestead that featured the Greenbelt logo, along with a Hamilton Town Hall graphic that could be used for the logo. A suggestion was made that the graphic could possibly be simplified using three rather than four colors. It was noted that Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding may still be possible, but application must be in by mid-June. Since the Town of Hamilton owns the Patton Riverwalk land it would be appropriate for the Town Manager or one of his staff to either apply for CPA funding for Patton Riverwalk signs or authorize the OSC to do so. Mr. Peters stated that "Town of Hamilton" should have equal font size as "Essex County Greenbelt" on the sign.

A motion was made to support the concept of the town hall logo being used for the Patton Riverwalk signage. The motion was seconded and approved.

c. Patton Ridge

Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Peters attended the May 10th Conservation Commission meeting to discuss unresolved issues and to support the previous OSC letter regarding the Patton Ridge development. The drainage pipe removal was discussed but not resolved.

The Conservation Commission voted for final certificate of compliance. The final language on public access remains unresolved. Boundary markers via iron rods were installed. It was noted that a lot has been accomplished but much remains to be done, including protection of the canoe landing, the pond, and the wetlands and other protected areas; advocate for total vision for Patton Homestead including permanent protection of areas above and additional open space.

The OSC noted the need for ongoing monitoring of the open space at Patton Ridge but feels that there needs to be a complete vision for the Patton Homestead.

OSRP

Ms. Gero met with Jim Hankin regarding the comment letter dated April 13, 2017 submitted to Jim by the OSC on the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), and offered to help him incorporate the comments into the plan. The OSC will continue to check in with Mr. Hankin to provide help. Ms. Kennedy offered to take over this role.

Sagamore Hill/Donovan Reservation

The members discussed the support letter to Greenbelt regarding the parking lot at the Donovan Reservation meeting. Mr. Peters reported his telcon discussion/suggestions with the Greenbelt Representative, to which Greenbelt agreed.

Weaver Pond

The new, much larger, pool footprint, along with the parking lot drainage, is causing the flooding issue in the pond and playground. The Conservation Commission has been apprised of the issue, without resolution.

OSRP Priorities

The committee noted the existing draft list of OSRP priorities and discussed need to begin work on goals. A copy of that list is attached. Next priorities identified included Open Space definition, Scenic bylaw development, Dark Sky bylaw development, and Patton Riverwalk signage. Mr. Peters has some draft bylaws to use as models, and will take on the dark sky bylaw. Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Dolce will work on the scenic bylaw. Ms. McCourt and Ms. Clark will work on the Patton Riverwalk signage.

OSC Member Vacancy

The members discussed the need to recruit another member for the committee and associate members are welcome.

Next Meeting

The members agreed that the next Open Space Committee meeting would be on Thursday June 29th at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

2016 OSC "Things to Do"

1. Define "open space" and identify its value
 1. under Open Space Plan
 2. under zoning by-laws
2. Public outreach
 1. fact sheet / list of places and value of open space
 2. promotion of use of open space
 3. trail maps / markings
 4. tie in with Recreation Dept
3. New activities
 1. invasive species education and removal project, school project?
 2. tie in with school curriculum
 3. light pollution by-law
 4. tree/arbor replacement - vista
 5. property inventory and priority list
4. Maintain and track Open Space Plan
5. OSC training - GIS, etc
6. Review of other towns for suggestions/models