

HAMILTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 9, 2019

Members Present: Angela Arvanites, Richard Boroff (Chair), Chris Davis, William Kerr, Merle Olmsted, and George Tarr.

This meeting was called to order in the Memorial Room at Town Hall at 9:10 am with a quorum established.

Information from Mass Audubon on its property in the Town of Hamilton

Richard Boroff said Audubon owned property in Hamilton but the land was not part of the Sanctuary as the GIS map indicated.

Review and discuss the tour of the recreation sites on April 26 with the MAPC representatives.

Committee members recalled that tour caravan discussions included how properties would maintain a network with connections to the Bay Circuit Trail as well as bicycle use. Another issue discussed during the tour was water. The wetland on Chebacco Road at Essex St. drained to the lakes in the area and should be considered as a potential water resource. Angela Arvanites said it became apparent how much land in town needed to be protected. The trail system, which connected all the way to Georgetown was discussed and considered to be an important part of the character of Hamilton. The Committee noted the importance of baseball diamonds but realized that development was creeping up from the south. The Committee was working as stewards to draw a line to protect the town's incredible resources from development. The tour's purpose was for MAPC to learn about the town. MAPC wanted the board to go over the goals of the Open Space Plan.

Richard Boroff to update the committee on a discussion he had with Chris LaPointe of Essex County Greenbelt.

According to Richard Boroff, Chris LaPointe would come to the committee to talk.

Chris Davis to discuss with the committee the Hamilton Wenham Land Trust.

Chris Davis said the distribution of open space in Hamilton was predominantly in western Hamilton with less in eastern Hamilton. Mr. Davis said properties were important for habitat and water supply and referred to the Rich property at Chebacco Road and Essex St. Properties such as the Rich parcel, which had current and potential value should be part of the criteria and objectives. Mr. Davis reviewed the typical parcels, most of which were held in fee, that the Hamilton Wenham Land Trust held and noted that some were not on the Open Space map.

Chris Davis said the Hamilton Wenham Land Trust had not been active in recent years and was struggling due to a lack of people involved. The Trust had been involved with Essex County

Greenbelt in trying to preserve the Rich property and had been involved in the Donovan property acquisition. The Trust held the Dodge property, which was additionally funded through rental income from various sources. Essex County Greenbelt had grown and had staff to acquire properties. George Tarr noted his property, which was held by the Trust was a neighborhood open space used by an increasing number of neighbors. Members noted that in the previous five years, the open space in town had experienced an increase in use, proving the importance to not only Hamilton residents but residents of neighboring towns as well. Funding for the Rich property acquisition was discussed.

Discuss the Goals Section of the plan by reviewing the sections of the Ipswich and Wenham plans.

Members agreed that the goals were structured differently in the Ipswich and Wenham plans. The Ipswich plan noted that goals were listed as being in Section 9 and were then found listed in that section. Hamilton's goals were considered more thematic but a listing would be preferable. The value of open space was not clear in the Hamilton document. Wenham's plan started with goals and listed hiking, walking, and jogging. Biking was not listed but was included in the text. Funding for acquisitions would become a goal for Hamilton.

Chris Davis would review Chapter 6. Some of Chapter 6 could go into the introduction of goals followed by a list of goals rated from high to low priority.

The following meeting would include a review of the minutes and work on goals. Richard Boroff would contact MAPC to determine when deliverables would be available.

Other relevant topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair.

Adjournment

Motion made Angela Arvanites to adjourn.

Seconded.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn at 9:59 am.

Prepared by:

Marcie Ricker

Attest

Date