

HAMILTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 18, 2019

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

This meeting was called to order in the Memorial Room at Town Hall at 9:15 am with a quorum established. The Committee agreed to meet every other week as MAPC would be conducting much of the work required. Future meetings would be held based on the deliverables from MAPC. William Kerr wanted to see an Action Plan from MAPC. Richard Boroff would review the MAPC schedule document and e-mail MAPC to determine dates. Angela Arvanites suggested coming up with a list of sites to be toured and set a tour date. Mr. Boroff would speak with Patrick Reffett regarding support during Jim Hankin's absence.

Discuss the previous meeting, which was with MAPC representatives if any members have concerns of questions.

William Kerr noted that the Committee was to develop a list of important parks and properties by April 18, 2019. Sean Timmons had submitted a list of Town-owned properties, but Mr. Kerr wanted to add 133 Essex St., a 66 acre parcel owned by the Rich family being considered for development. Richard Boroff noted it was a private property. Mr. Kerr said the list should consider properties the Committee was concerned about. MAPC might want to add it to their inventory. Harvard Forest, which was accessed from Cutler Road at the Railroad tracks was another property of concern for Mr. Kerr. Mr. Boroff said the property was owned by Harvard University. Mr. Boroff suggested adding strategies for the protection in a general term and adding it to the work. Angela Arvanites said Mr. Timmons would have the Town owned properties and the Committee would point out other properties with both being included on the list.

William Kerr would speak with Essex Country Greenbelt and Bay Circuit Trail members to consider potential properties for trail connections. Mr. Kerr wanted specific private properties on the list to create awareness of the potential of losing connecting properties. Mr. Kerr thought properties that were not under control were the ones to be concerned about. Richard Boroff did not believe MAPC would review parcels that were not under the control of the Town. Mr. Kerr said MAPC wanted a survey of properties that were of concern. Angela Arvanites wanted to supply MAPC with the most amount of information possible. Mr. Kerr wanted to tour the properties at risk.

Richard Boroff would contact MAPC regarding how long it would be until they wanted to tour the properties. Previously the week of April 22, 2019 had been noted. Friday morning, April 26, 2019 was acceptable to all members. Angela Arvanites wanted to create a list of properties to be viewed that were not Town controlled, allowing MAPC to pare it down.

Discuss the status of Ipswich River Wildlife Property potentially in Hamilton. If we have received any information from the Sanctuary Director.

Richard Boroff had contacted the Director and she would determine the status after speaking with Audubon. The topic would remain on the agenda until an answer was determined.

Discuss the recreation portion of the plan if we have information from Sean Timmons.

Sean Timmons would join the Committee and information had been supplied.

Discuss the tentative tour of the Town recreation properties.

Sagamore Hill and the Donovan Fields were already on the list. Angela Arvanites wanted to offer an example of what the Town was trying to save and an example of what had been preserved. Richard Boroff noted properties that were held in conservation, which would be unknown unless one knew the landowner. Mr. Boroff referred to the assessor's database, which indicated 61A and 61B restrictions on specific parcels. Forestry was a ten year restriction. Other properties could be taken out of restriction and back taxes would need to be paid.

Angela Arvanites reiterated that MAPC should tour the list of Town owned properties, the Rich property, and Harvard Forest. William Kerr wanted MAPC to determine which properties they thought they should review. Ms. Arvanites suggested asking MAPC which Town owned open space parcels they would want to tour. Essex County Trail Association would have a catalogue of trails. Susan Lawrence would be the contact.

Minutes of March 28, 2019 and April 4, 2019

Motion made by William Kerr to adopt the minutes of March 28, 2019 and April 4, 2019.

Seconded by Merle Olmsted.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Discuss anything else the Committee wishes that deals with the production of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Adjournment

Motion made Angela Arvanites to adjourn.

Seconded by Merle Olmsted.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn at 9:55 am.

Prepared by:

Marcie Ricker

Attest

Date