

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2017 at the HW Library

Present: Anne Gero, Jackie Hodge, Rosemary Kennedy, Emer McCourt, Zachary Peters

The meeting came to order at 7:01 p.m. The Minutes of the December 7th, 2016 meeting was unanimously approved. It was decided to defer approval to the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting until the next meeting so that comments could be incorporated.

The OSC members then discussed the draft comment letter to Jim Hankin regarding the revisions to the OSRP. Anne Gero followed up on her discussion with Sean Timmons regarding the Town of Hamilton's Recreation Department Master Plan. That document can be easily updated and incorporated into the revised OSRP. It provides an excellent trail inventory. The OSC members unanimously agreed that this would help to alleviate some of the lack of awareness of trails in town and was a good area for collaboration.

A brief review of the status of the OSC's draft comment letter to the revised Open Space and Recreation Plan followed. Rosemary Kennedy recommended adding the Trust for Public Land (2013) ten page document on the Benefits of Open Space. Zachary Peters' notes were also incorporated. The OSC members discussed how much data was required for the OSRP. Jackie Hodge believe that data from the town administered online survey was not admissible. Emer McCourt believed it was probably still of value given that the survey was modeled on the earlier survey (administered in person) used in the former plan and that the number of residents who responded was as high in the more recent survey as the previous one. The OSC recommends that the Conservation Commission solicits additional data in order to strengthen the OSRP. The OSC unanimously agreed that the Conservation Commission should solicit additional input from NGO's and Community members pertaining to Open Space.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

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