

Board/Committee: Open Space and Recreation Committee

Day & Date: Monday, September 20, 2021

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Olga Hayes, Steve Gang, Helen Bethell, Curtis Rising, Al Centner, Sheila Linehan
Staff Present: Sue Brown, Town Planner

Olga opened the meeting at 6:30 PM

- I. Approval of June 28 Minutes
Olga moved, Steve seconded: All voted to approve.
- II. Update on OSRC plan
Sue reported that MAPC Consultant Courtney Lewis has sent the draft OSRP to DCR for preliminary approval and is waiting for those comments to come back before making any additional changes as it is typical for DCR to recommend changes. Courtney reported that DCR estimated they would have comments in by the end of September.
A contract extension has been executed.
- III. Brochure Update
Sheila will move forward on this project and coordinate with Amy Bloudin to complete.
- IV. Update on Pine Street/Newport Park parking
John reported that the Board of Selectmen are working with the Manchester Housing Authority to get back the Pine Street on-street parking spaces for trail users.
- V. Update on watershed committee proposal to BOS
The Board of Selectmen need to authorize the Committee to be under the Conservation Commission. The role of the Committee would be to make recommendations to the BOS, BOS and others regarding water resource protection. Helen will reach out to Becky Jaques and Steve will check with Eli regarding the status of the authorization and the process for appointing members.
- VI. Bike racks (Bike and Ped Comm)
Al reported that the Bike and Pedestrian Committee is ordering two bike racks and is working with the DPW to choose the best location of potential locations identified. DPW will install the racks. The Bike and Pedestrian Committee is exploring options for more racks and is considering asking for CPC funds.
- VII. Update on Western Woods preservation initiative
Sue reported that a Forester has been contracted to create a Forest Stewardship and Bird Habitat Assessment Plan for the Western Woods. In addition to this technical assessment and report with findings and recommendations, Sue will host public forums to get the community's input on goals for the Western Woods.
The Conservation Commission has signed an MOU with Cape Ann Trail Stewards to

document the intent, roles and responsibilities those involved in the Trail Stewardship Program. CATS volunteers will monitor existing trails on identified properties, including the Western Woods, will provide routine trail maintenance and will report to the Conservation Commission on trail conditions and needs.

The Board of Selectmen are having a discussion with Conservation Commission to resolve Conservation Restriction language regarding motorized vehicle use on the logging road/carriage path on the Christian Hill property. Once resolved, the Conservation Restriction will be ready to send to the state for approval.

VIII. Other business, as may not have been reasonably anticipated

Helen reported that the Dexter Trail Pond is impassable due primarily to excessive vegetation and several blowdowns. Steve noted that Mike McDonough is aware and will be working to improve conditions there.

I. Schedule next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 25th at 6:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Meeting Minutes approved at November 1, 2021 OSRC meeting.