



Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 27, 2020

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Place: Ipswich Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room

Attendees:

Members: Andy Brengle, Co-Chair, Wayne Castonguay, Co-Chair, Katie Hone, Erin Coates-Connor, Andrea Lacroix, Ralph Williams

Associates: Larry Eliot, Ed Monnelly

Staff: Hannah Wilbur, Open Space Manager

1. Citizen Queries

Michael Schaaf, Finance Committee member and professional planning consultant, asked the committee for any insights on potential outcomes for the former Candlewood Golf Course parcel. Committee members and attendees concluded that its future was uncertain, noting that the property was in probate indefinitely to sort out ownership interests of several inheriting family members. Portions of the land are wetlands. It is enrolled in Chapter 61B (recreation land) tax forebearance program. The parcel is not on the Open Space Bond List.

Ed asked if a tax increment financing (TIF) that New England Biolabs has applied for could be used for open space program funding. Recent changes to the TIF law, however, no longer allow the TIF program to be applied to open space. New England Biolabs formerly contributed \$30,000 annually to the open space program under an earlier TIF, but that payment ended with the 2019 fiscal year.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from December 16, 2019 meeting

After edits, Andy moved to accept the minutes; seconded by Ralph; voted unanimously.

3. 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Hannah and Erin reported meeting with both the Conservation Commission and the Shade Tree Committee to share the current draft of OSRP goals. Andrea also attended the ConsCom meeting. Andy said he met with the Agricultural Commission to share the goals. Hannah also said she would reopen the survey to collect more responses. A new intern has been hired to help with mapping and Hannah said she would share some of the map drafts at the February meeting. Editing and drafting of the report continues.

4. 173-178 Linebrook Road

Symes Associates appeared before the Planning Board on January 23 and remained adamant about keeping the trail along Linebrook Road and through the center of Phase 3. Wayne said the committee should hold its ground and insist on an alternate trail route outside the development's footprint. Members want to walk the western border of the Phase 3 parcel to get a first hand look at the strip where a trail might go to gauge wetness and slope and distance

from future homes. A slight curve and rise in Linebrook Road where the trail emerges from the southern Phase 1 parcel could pose a safety issue if a crossing is desired there. Members said they would continue to monitor the developer's plans and urge the Planning Board to require a different trail route.

5. Community events of interest

- 2020 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference, Saturday, March 28, 2020, 8:00 am—4:00 pm, Worcester Technical High School, One Skyline Drive, Worcester, MA
- 2020 Massachusetts Open Space Conference, Saturday, April 25, 9:30 am—3:30 pm at Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, MA.

6. Other items not reasonably anticipated

Hannah and Wayne stepped out briefly to attend the Select Board review and vote on the Open Space program budget for fiscal year 2021.

7. The committee entered executive session at 8:50 p.m. on a motion from Andy, seconded by Katie, and after a unanimous roll call vote. The committee then returned to open session at 9:23 p.m.

At 9:24 p.m., on a motion by Erin, seconded by Katie, the committee voted to adjourn

Next meeting February 24, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Brengle

Adopted February 24, 2020