

## DRAFT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 25, 2019

Time: 7:05 pm

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

Attendees:

Members:

Wayne Castonguay -Chair

Caleb Garone

Katie Hone

David Feldman

Will Holton

Associates:

Larry Eliot

Ed Monnelly

Staff:

Hannah Wilbur, Open Space Program Manager

### MEETING AGENDA

1. Citizen Queries: None
2. Acceptance of Minutes from November 26, 2018 meeting  
On a motion by Caleb, seconded by Katie, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes as submitted.
3. Pony Express update  
David reported that the irrigation system is not yet installed but the parking lot for 90 vehicles is complete and two fields will be ready for spring. A grand opening party is scheduled with a pick up soccer game to celebrate the event. The town vote for a name settled on *Castle Neck River Fields* with the BOS to make final decision. Committee discussion also included organic field care and use of pesticides on Town properties. David has spoken with experts on this subject and will continue to emphasize the importance of using non-chemical fertilizers.
4. Open Space Committee term limits  
Hannah reports that there will be hearings on March 18 and April 1 with the Select Board to present our proposed article regarding Open Space Committee appointment terms, which is on the warrant for the spring Town Meeting.
5. 2018 Annual Report  
Hannah will compose the report and forward it to the Committee for revisions.

6. MGL 337: An Act Regulation and Insuring Short-Term Rentals  
Hannah reports that Section 3A of MGL Chapter 64G has been amended to include Airbnb and VRBO rentals. There is the caveat that the excise tax is applicable only if a property is rented for 14 nights in a one-year period. The nights do not need to be consecutive.
7. Open Space Program FY20 Budget  
The OSC budget meeting with the Select Board and the Finance Committee went well according to Hannah with general acceptance from the Board.
8. Long term planning for Open Space Program funding  
Based on our current spending track, even after removing the Open Space Manager from the Open Space Recreation and Water Supply Protection Fund, there will be no money available by 2025. Hannah reports that Tony Marino feels volunteers should be considered to help reduce expenses. Suggestions of using *Go fund me* as a possible source along with soliciting gifts to Open Space was also discussed. Perhaps an “Adopt-a-Trail” program could be developed whereby a list of volunteers could be compiled and participate in maintenance of OS properties. No resolution to this issue at this time.

Hannah presented the Town of Ipswich Open Space Bond List Properties map showing parcels based on the Mass Audubon Balanced Model ranking system. The bond list properties are shown on the map along with residential and building lots for all of Ipswich.

A discussion ensued on how the members of OSC can sell the importance of open space and what it means for the future of Ipswich to conserve our natural resources. More outreach, more participation with other groups in town such as the Long Term Planning Committee and Green Community groups was discussed.

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated  
Hannah discussed the upcoming Mass Land Trust Coalition Annual Conference on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
10. Executive Session for the purposes of land acquisition.  
There was no call for a vote to enter executive session since there was nothing to discuss regarding land acquisition.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:35pm by David, seconded by Caleb and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Holton