

## Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 22, 2023

Time: 7:08 p.m.

Place: Town Hall

### **Attendees:**

Members: Andy Brengle - Chair, Wayne Castonguay Co-Chair, Andrea Lacroix, Katie Hone,

Associates: Ed Monnelly

#### 1. Citizen queries

None

#### 2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes (April 24, 2023)

Andrea moved to accept the minutes from the April 24 meeting, seconded by Katie, passed unanimously.

#### 3. Post OSC manager process/discussion-position advertised; summer staffing and intern schedule

The Town is interviewing candidates for the Open Space Program Manager position. (Molly Shea resigned April 24 to be effective May 22, after meeting, but gave birth the week before the meeting and so did not attend.) Wayne raised the question of partnering with Essex County Greenbelt to provide open space manager services with one of its staff if Ipswich pays Greenbelt the cost of those services. OSC considered such an option during an earlier open space manager search. Since we have a difficult time keeping managers at the salary offered with no benefits, it may be a good option at this point. Members voiced support for asking Greenbelt if they would be interested. Wayne said they could do it a lot cheaper, and already have relationships with landowners. It might reduce program administrative load on Town staff, namely Beth O'Connor.

The summer intern started today. We don't know what instructions or marching orders the intern received. Beth is away.

Wayne and Andy said they would try to meet with interim planning director Glenn Gibbs before the next meeting to assess current staffing.

#### 4. 2023 Open Space Program/Committee Goals and Priorities – continued conversation

Since the committee attendance was small, it was decided not to go into much depth. Andy reminded members of a spreadsheet Molly created with goals and priorities ordered neatly for easy review. One of the goals is to produce a series of articles, probably one per season, of 400 words each on an open space topic for the Ipswich Local News. Katie, Erin and Andy have already said they would write up short essays for summer, fall, winter, spring.

#### 5. Bond list prioritization update / continued discussion

Committee members went through remaining properties on a 20-parcel list to order them by priority and importance. Six were already given rankings from an earlier meeting of the bond list prioritization subcommittee, and those six were presented to the full committee at the April meeting. Andy noted

that the four members of that subcommittee happened to be the members in attendance this meeting. The committee completed rankings of 14 more properties for the top 20. They all rank "H" for High on a scale featuring high, medium, and low. Andrea asked what we will do with the ranking. Wayne said it will be of use to the next Open Space Program Manager and can be used in concert with Greenbelt, which has its own ranking system.

6. Summer Open Space Committee Meeting Schedule  
Committee members decided to wait until the June meeting, when more members present, to determine whether any meetings during the summer should be skipped.
7. Other Items Not Reasonably Anticipated  
None
8. Executive Session  
None
9. Adjournment  
Katie moved to adjourn, seconded by Andrea, unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Brengle