



Ipswich Open Space Committee

Meeting of June 1, 2020, 7pm, by Zoom

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

Staff: Hannah Wilbur

The meeting convened at 7:05

1. There were no Citizen Queries.
2. Ralph moved to accept the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Erin; unanimous.
3. This was mostly working session on Section 9 of the Open Space Plan Draft. Hannah shared her screen.

Objective 1.1

Andrea asked who reads rankings and why H,M,L. Hannah state requires it. Andy acknowledged rankings are confusing.

Objective 1.2

Ralph mentioned Maplecroft trail is often closed. There was a discussion on OSPZ bylaw.

Objective 1.3 funding

There was a CPA discussion. Ralph stated there is a separate committee and that the bond was better for open space. Wayne mentioned the concern over funds going towards non open space projects. Hannah reported that the hotel taxes were up before pandemic which was good thing because they will plummet. Water supply concerns were mentioned.

Objective 2.4 Protect wildlife habitat

Katie, why not a ban on pesticides on public property like other towns do? Erin, need to be careful as it can be a legitimate conservation tool to manage invasives. Andy, when was the last time the town certified a vernal pool?

Objective 2.5 Recreational use & access

Hannah asked for a harbor plan representative. Wayne said he could cover it as part of his role in the shellfish section. Ralph, what about off-road access-still a problem? Wayne and Ralph mentioned over use by mountain bikes. What about non-motorized boat access and erosion on river?

Goal 3 Preserve scenic quality.

- 3.1. Active agriculture. Andy suggested action item totaling number of farms each year, but not trying to total farm income data because of its sensitivity. Keep rest. A farmer's market conversation ensued. Katie explained why it failed.
Hannah will ask Gordon Harris about Ipswich River overlay district.

Goal 4; Improve recreational facilities.

What about Riverwalk? Andrea can be improved. Katie, is there an accessibility issue? Wayne suggested language should be to both expand & improve. Ralph asked if there was a difference between accessibility & access. What about bike issues along the to-be-improved Jeffreys neck road? Section 4.2. ADA issues same.

Goal 5: education

Andy: should add new section on the value of open space with Ipswich-centric data. Willing to spearhead effort. Erin Harvard forest has tools to do so on cost of community services.

Goal 6: Regional issues

Andrea, why is climate low priority? Because we have to have some in low priority. 6.2. Town departments should cooperate more. Reviewed who is a liaison to which entity. We should coordinate the plan regionally.

Andy asked for other items not anticipated. Hannah reminded everyone on need to get re-appointed and sworn in. Andrea mentioned June 8 screening of World of Plastics.

At 8:52 PM, Andrea moved to adjourn, seconded by Katie; unanimous

Adopted July 27, 2020