

Open Space and Recreation
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
ZOOM Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 7:05pm

Members present: Peter Pescatore, Tom Callahan, Dee Riley, Maryanne Wetherald, John McMahon, Sue Cunningham, Marisa Manley

Other guests: Sarah Burgess, Jay Pimpare, Michelle Millerd, Dean Podoll, Dan Leahy, Katherine Buckley

Once a quorum was realized, the chair asked for comments on the minutes from the February 9th meeting. There were no further edits recommended and Tom Callahan moved to approve the minutes. Dee Riley seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

The chair announced that the select board approved the proclamation to recognize Arbor Day and will plan a tree planting ceremony on April 30th, 2021, but the location is still being decided.

Maryanne Wetherald inquired if the trees were going to be replaced at the new basketball courts. The chair will check in with Brian Joyce, Director of Public Works as to the status of that project. Tom Callahan had also requested for the chair to ask Brian Joyce about the missing kiosk at the Brass Kettle Trailhead and the downed tree across the trail.

Grant Sub-Committee: Dee Riley informed the committee that she had a conversation with Lauren Lind about the town grant process. The Complete Streets Grant is currently in progress by the town but Lauren is supportive of any other grants the Open Space and Recreation Committee would like to bring forward. The chair suggested to continue to build these relationships with town members to help assist the committee in pursuing future grants.

The chair also suggested talking about the LWCF grant at the next meeting, as the deadline for that will approach fast.

Bylaw Sub-Committee: The chair informed the committee that there are three bylaw proposals that have passed the planning, zoning and advisory boards and are now in front of the select board for approval tonight.

Tom Callahan provided more detail on the ledge protection and requested that if any questions surface to direct those residents to him, so he can explain why ledge protection is not included.

Harbor Committee Plan: No update since the last meeting

The chair is on the subcommittee currently reviewing zoning in the harbor. The committee will make a recommendation for land usage amendments. The modifications will take 12-18 months and will likely be presented at the annual town meeting in 2022.

Tom Callahan suggested that the timeline may need to be accelerated to the fall 2021 town meeting.

Current Action Item Progress:

Earth Day: The chair reported that the day of event planning is going well and is on track. There is staffing for the tables, the bags are printed, and grabbers have been acquired.

Sarah Burgess asked the chair for a tote bag for social media promotion. Tom Callahan suggested getting a photo with Ava DeSalvo, the logo contest winner, for promotion.

Graffiti: Sue Cunningham emailed photos of the graffiti at the reservoir to give the committee a visual of the vandalism. The chair stated that the town has tried to clean this up before, but it keeps coming back. The chair posed whether this is a civic issue or a police issue and the chair suggested getting a forum together to decide how to handle it and prevent the graffiti from happening again. Sue Cunningham has been trying to work with the high school and safe harbor to try to hold an event to raise awareness of the graffiti and hopefully put a stop to it.

In the meantime both the green team and safe harbor will be cleaning up the reservoir at the town cleanup April 24th including cleaning the graffiti with a glop that can remove it and with a pressure washer. Tom Callahan asked if the cleaner was approved by the Conservation Committee. The chair requested that Sue Cunningham get on the agenda for the next Conservation Committee meeting to get the cleaner reviewed and approved ahead of the Earth Day town cleanup.

Open Space Inventory: Tom Callahan stated that there are 209 parcels coded as residential parcels that are available for development and requested a map of these parcels. Dee Riley asked if the town has considered its infrastructure and schools and if those residential developments could be absorbed in the town's current state. Tom Callahan suggested that if the town went full buildout there would be pressure for new schools to support that growth. Tom Callahan suggested the committee should support taking on some of these parcels as open spaces rather than sell off the land.

Whadleigh Park: Catherine Buckley, resident of 560 Jerusalem Road is an abutter of Whadleigh park and expressed concern over the development of the park. The chair clarified that the Open Spaces and Recreation Committee had voted to research the potential of creating a children's playground in this space. Jay Pimpare, resident of 713 Jerusalem Road stated that this project is not getting any support and questioned why it is still on the agenda and still being pushed forward. The chair explained that the Open Spaces and Recreation Committee is currently not prepared to take action, as higher priorities have taken precedent.

Tom Callahan suggested this be removed from the agenda. Maryanne Wetherald stated that given her feedback on the plan that was provided there were both safety and conservation concerns and also suggested it be removed as a project.

Tom made a motion to remove Whadleigh Park from the agenda. Maryanne Wetherald seconded. The committee voted in favor 5-1

New Playing Fields: Dee Riley informed the committee that the Cohasset Youth Baseball league had presented to the select board to add lights to the Barnes Complex because they do not have enough fields to play all of their games. Dee Riley suggested for the open spaces and recreation committee to look into adding more playing fields to help solve this. Marisa Manley informed the committee that based on the select board meeting the consensus was that there is a longer term solution at play to find more space in town to build out more capacity to meet the growing demand and suggested if we could start reviewing the available open spaces. Maryanne Wetherald suggested that the select board is likely still deciding and weighing both sides to see if the short term solution of adding lights to the fields is also viable. Tom Callahan suggested that the committee can help advise the town and evaluate what open spaces might be available for field creation. The chair suggested getting the list from the database so that we could look and see what is available as a first step.

The chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Tom Callahan moved the motion and Maryanne Wetherald seconded. The motion was approved 6-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Marisa Manley