

Open Space and Recreation
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 6:08pm

Members present: Connie Afshar, Alix White, Marisa Manley, Chris McIntyre, Maryanne Wetherald

Additional Attendees:

Connie Afshar, co-chair, asked for comments on the minutes from the March 23rd meeting. There were a few minor edits recommended by Alix White and Connie Afshar, co-chair. which were edited. Maryanne Wetherald made a motion to approve the minutes, Alix White seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Agenda Items:

Maryanne Wetherald reported that The Friends of Holly Hill Farm are launching a fundraising campaign to purchase 5.23 acres of land which would be used to both fund indoor educational spaces and make some barn improvements. As part of the campaign, Holly Hill Farm would like to solicit feedback from the Open Spaces and Recreation Committee. The committee was trying to discern where the 5 acres of land was. Alix White stated that there are CR (conservation restrictions) on the land and there are restrictions on how the land can be used, but it is likely the land down the hill where the greenhouses currently reside are in conservation restriction.

The Open Spaces and Recreation Committee would like Carolyn Coffee, or someone from the Holly Hill Farm board, to come to our next open spaces meeting to discuss the campaign before committing to an interview.

Discussion of upcoming Earth Day's Town-wide Cleanup Day

Connie Afshar, co-chair, reports that she asked the town to provide 6 - 5' long tables for various committees to use if they would like to be present on Saturday. The committee would like to invite Wild Cohasset, the Alternative Energies Committee, Holly Hill farm, Montanna Cassel (composting), CSCR, Sandy Beach Association, Conservation trust, safe harbor and boy/girl scouts. Connie Afshar, co-chair, will reach out and coordinate with each of those groups.

DPW has a truck that will be available for large items to be picked up as participants find them. Connie Afshar, co-chair, will get the number for the truck so that the committee will have it on hand on the day of.

Chris McIntyre asked if we were assigning locations again. Connie Afshar, co-chair. has the original list from Peter Pescatore and will make sure to bring copies to the table for assignment.

Maryanne Wetherald reported that she has been tagging participants in last year's cleanup on Instagram in hopes that they would share the details of the upcoming cleanup. Connie Afshar, co-chair, also recommended to Maryanne Wetherald to try reaching out to the churches on the common to reach more citizens and make them aware of the town cleanup too.

The committee discussed the day of logistics for the cleanup. Connie Afshar, co-chair will man the table for most of the day, but others from the committee will take shifts between 9am and 2pm.

Marisa Manley reported that she and Dee Riley have solicited prizes from a few businesses in town to raffle off to the participants of the town cleanup. Maryanne Wetherald will put together an instruction flyer for the table and Marisa Manley will put together a list of the businesses that donated raffle prizes. Connie Afshar, co-chair, will bring a notepad to the table to collect email addresses of the participants, and Maryanne Wetherald will collect instagram handles from social media. Marisa Manley will combine both populations and then will perform a random drawing of participants to award the prizes.

Other Business:

Connie Afshar, co-chair, reported that there is a new sidewalk committee in Cohasset and the Open Spaces and Recreation Committee should try to get a representative from this committee to come to an upcoming meeting.

Marisa Manley proposed that we set up a liaison position between the Open Spaces and Recreation Committee and the newly formed sidewalk committee, since there would be a lot of overlap of committee goals. Connie Afshar, co-chair, said that she would mention that to the new committee as well.

Chris McIntyre mentioned that the committee should speak to Montanna Cassel about getting a tree inventory up and running to better manage our town trees, especially as the town considers adding or replacing sidewalks. Chris McIntyre also suggested looking at other local town bylaws that we can borrow from for better tree replacement policies and enforcement.

Maryanne Wetherald asked how we could get our tree population better controlled. Chris McIntyre suggested a tree inventory to start, so that we can have a baseline. Marisa Manley reported that per Dee Riley's research last fall there is a \$50,000 tree town budget that is really only covering removal and pruning of trees. Marisa Manley mentioned that she is meeting with the Green team at Cohasset High School next week and can discuss a citizen scientist program with them to see if they would have any interest in a tree project, which would include sizing, identifying species and tagging town owned trees. Alix White mentioned that the Cohasset Garden club did a similar project in the Common to identify and tag the trees. We could break up this project by leveraging different groups and creating land ownership using volunteer groups from the town green teams, garden clubs and potential Eagle Scouts projects.

Alix White makes a motion to adjourn, Maryanne Wetherald seconded. The motion was approved 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marisa Manley