



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Open Space Committee

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Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes October 28, 2019

Approved
1/27/20

Members Present: John Campbell, Chairman; Brian Belfer, Paul Tagliaferri, Leslie Harrison, Antony Ziton, Dan Clark.

Others Present: Diane Guldner, Conservation Commission, Justin Dufresne, Conservation Commission, Mark Awdycki, Recreation Commission, Trish Settles, Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), Sarah Adams, CMRPC, Allison Lane, Recreation Director, Kathy Joubert, Town Planner, Mia McDonald, Conservation Agent

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:02pm.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Kickoff

Trish Settles and Sarah Adams, Consultants from CMRC presented information on the update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and proposed a timeline for completion of eight to twelve months. The meetings will take place at the Open Space Committee's monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month with the next two meeting scheduled for November 25 and January 27 (skipping December due to holiday schedules.)

The goal for the next meeting will be to complete a survey for distribution to the public. Ms. McDonald will complete a draft survey from the previous survey, previous survey results and a template of the Sturbridge survey provided by CMRPC. This draft survey is to be distributed prior to the November 25 meeting.

Outreach for soliciting public comment was discussed, including utilizing a service like Survey Monkey, town websites and distribution lists, paper copies at library and Northborough Senior Center, and posters at local buildings, businesses, fields, trailheads and events like the Turkey Trot.

Draft maps were provided by CMRPC for review and update by Town Staff.

Many attendees left the meeting after the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update, with only OSC members and Ms. McDonald remaining for the rest of the meeting.

Project Updates

- 615 Howard Street – Town Counsel is currently drafting a purchase and sale agreement for the 19.2 acres of backland for \$390,000 with a hopeful closing date in December.
- 0 Green Street (Map 20, Parcel 45) – Possible land donation discussed. Landlocked parcel in the vicinity but not directly adjacent to conservation land owned by town and state. Ms. Harrison made a motion, Mr. Clark seconded and all voted in favor of recommending acceptance of the parcel to the Conservation Commission.

Other Town Project Updates:

- Master Plan Steering Committee – final meeting of the Master Plan Steering Committee to be scheduled soon.
- Town Common – Construction underway and almost complete.
- Dog Park – The participation in the DCR Matching Fund Program Project has been called into question by a local landowner due to possible conservation status of the property at 0 Hudson Street. DCR has referred the issue to their legal department. The Town Administrator's Office plans to draft a formal response.

Other Business As May Legally Come Before the Committee

- ZBA Application for dog business 125 Rice Ave: denied at the recent ZBA meeting. Conservation Commission issued a permit for a bridge to the rear of the property.
- Assabet Park renovation: Chairman Campbell stated he would like to see sidewalks included in the project to connect the Town Common and downtown. The Committee discussed and supported this opinion. Chairman Campbell stated no action is to be taken by the Committee at this time. But also stated he would bring up the issue at the upcoming Community Preservation Committee meeting when the application for Assabet Park is presented.
- Conservation Commission requested a letter of support for their CPC application for vegetative management at local ponds. The Committee discussed and stated they would like additional information on the long term goals for Bartlett Pond and on the specific species being targeted. Ms. McDonald recommended attending the upcoming meeting of the Conservation Commission to discuss this information and suggested the Conservation Commission could submit supplemental information to the CPC application. Ms. Harrison made a motion, Mr. Ziton seconded and 1 voted in favor (Chairman Campbell), 5 abstained from the vote to issue a letter of support for the application. The motion failed to pass.
- Chairman Campbell suggested staff obtain the balances of the Conservation Fund and their designated use.

Consideration of Minutes: Ms. Harrison made a motion, Mr. Tagliaferri seconded and 5 voted in favor to approve the minutes for the July 22, 2019 meeting (Mr. Ziton abstained as he was not present.)

Mr. Tagliaferri made a motion to close the meeting, Ms. Harris seconded, but Chairman Campbell stopped the vote stating there is no need to vote to adjourn the meetings.

The meeting ended at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mia McDonald
Conservation Agent