

**Town of Harvard Open Space Committee**  
**April 14, 2022 8:00 am**  
**Minutes**

Members present: Franklyn Carlson, Paul Cohen, Brian Cook, JoAnne Crystoff, Dan Daly, Peter Dorward (Chair), Jim Lee

Non-voting members present: Liz Allard, Chris Ryan

Meeting called to order 8:00 AM.

Minutes of the 3/10/22 OSC meeting were not available for review and approval.

Next meeting was set for 4/14/22 at 8:00 AM.

The agenda was rearranged as Jim Lee had not yet joined.

**New Business**

**Earth Day Activities**

Franklyn volunteered that the Carlson orchards solar farm was open for visiting. Liz suggested handing out flyers promoting the upcoming OSRP survey, and indicated that could be done in the ConCom booth. Chris thought it would be a good opportunity for sharing our purpose and work, and expected a good turnout. No OSC committee members were available to man a booth.

**Old Business**

**Potential Sites for Active Recreation**

Peter displayed a map of the culled potential sites for active recreation which Jim, Paul & Dan had created. The culled list contained ~20 potential sites. Jim indicated the next step would be to begin to contact the owners to see if they have any interest in selling their land for use as playing fields.

Liz indicated the Wheeler property on Ayer Rd is currently being developed and should be removed from the list of potential sites.

Dan thanked Jim for his insights into the properties which allowed the list to be reduced.

Peter questioned whether parcels very far from the center of Town should be considered as potential sites for playing fields. Jim thought all sites should be considered as, while being less desirable to travel further, removing the remote sites would limit our options. Peter also questioned a property which was accessible only via a private way in Littleton. Jim agreed those factors would make it difficult to use. Dan suggested leaving it on the list and recording potential limitations on the list. Peter urged that the list be further reduced to the most likely sites. Dan observed that the winnowing process had been going on for almost two years, and it was time to start talking to land owners. Brian agreed the committee should begin the outreach.

Peter volunteered to approach several land owners on the list who he knew. He proposed contacting the land owners, explain the process by which OSC used to identify potential active recreation sites, and then ask if they had any interest in selling their land for that purpose. Dan objected to this approach, and noted that the ask would be for both OS protection and active recreation. Peter indicated the current discussion was limited to potential sites for active recreation and did not include OS protection.

Liz suggested that all map/parcel numbers be listed where there are adjacent parcels combined. Peter explained he did not know how to make the GIS model do that.

Jim suggested the committee begin the next step of contacting land owners on the culled list. Brian agreed, and suggested we have a coordinated story to share with folks. Paul suggested starting by sending a letter to the land owners before contacting them. Peter disagreed because several of the land owners have demonstrated support for land conservation, and would be taken aback if receiving a letter in the mail asking if they are interested in selling their land for playing fields. Paul suggested a letter would be a better lead in for those not known to anyone on OSC. Brian suggested crafting a letter, and for those known to the committee the letter be delivered in person. Brian also suggested including a description of the burden the lack of playing fields is placing on the children in Town.

Dan and Paul volunteered to draft a letter for the next OSC meeting. Peter asked the committee to examine the list to see if they would volunteer to contact any of the names on the list.

Peter suggested delaying the discussion of the Select Board check-in as there was nothing new on the list (previously reviewed with OSC at the 2/17/22 meeting) and because the Select Board representative was not in attendance.

## **New Business**

### **Open Space & Recreation Plan Update**

Liz informed the committee that the kick-off meeting with MRPC is on 4/19/22. The agenda for the meeting was shared with the OSC. Liz had hoped to be able to share the OSRP survey questions but had not yet received them from MRPC. Liz observed that all committee members will need to contribute to updating parts of the OSRP, and suggested that if the committee members did not have time to do so, they ask the committees they represent for volunteers.

Jim asked what the timing was for the update, and Peter showed the draft schedule. Jim wondered why more time was not allowed to adequately craft the survey questions as the survey was very important. Peter explained the need to get the survey out before summer vacations if the OSRP update is to be completed this calendar year which is what the DLTA grant covers. Peter suggested trying to stick to the proposed schedule, and delaying it if needed for more time to get the survey questions correct.

Peter encouraged committee members to attend the Tuesday OSRP kickoff meeting to support the effort.

Peter briefly walked through the sections of the OSRP, and indicated which he thought needed major revision. The most important was the survey and resultant Goals & Objectives.

Paul asked when the survey questions need to be finalized. The schedule shows the survey questions being approved by the OSC at the next OSC meeting in May. Liz will send out the first pass survey questions from MRPC to the committee, and asked that feedback be returned to her by 5/1/22 so they can be collated to be ready for approval at the May OSC meeting.

Dan, Paul and Brian volunteered to work on the Recreation survey questions. Peter volunteered to work on the OS protection survey questions.

Peter again thanked Liz for getting the MRPC grant which will greatly reduce the amount of work required of the OSC.

Jim suggested including the climate resiliency group in crafting the question. Liz volunteered to share the questions with them.

Peter asked who would be able to attend the MRPC kickoff meeting. Franklyn said he might be depending on the weather. Brian, Jim and Peter said yes.

Paul made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM by unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Peter Dorward