

Town of Harvard
Open Space Committee
Minutes: January 13, 2022

Committee Members in Attendance:

Peter Dorward, Jo-ann Crystoff, Jim Lee, Rich Maiore, Paul Cohen

Others: Liz Allard, Chris Ryan

New Business

Selected OSC Officers

Jim nominated Peter as Chair, Rich second. Unanimously approved Peter as Chair
Rich nominated Paul as Vice-Chair, Jim seconded. Unanimously approved as Vice-Chair

Old Business

CPC Application

Didi Chadron, Chair of CPC, shared with Peter that both OSC applications from were approved by CPC on 1.12.22

CPIC Application

Paul provided update that CPIC had voted to approve \$50,000 for a land acquisition fund.

There is a need for guidance from Select Board on a capital plan from OSC focused on active recreation land as this came up during CPIC deliberations and is part of OSC charter. Peter indicated the issue of a capital plan for active rec would be a question raised to the Select Board during OSC's upcoming update to the Select Board.

Open Space Map Update

Peter shared an updated Open Space map to reflect new data from Assessor's tax parcels and properties that are now under conservation restriction. It also includes changes to the map based on new Agricultural preservation rules issued by the state and ecological changes. This resulted in small changes to scoring and no changes to top 25 OSC identified parcels.

Discussion of identification of Active Rec

Members discussed the next steps for identification of potential suitable parcels for an athletic field complex. Committee stressed importance of doing this in coordination with Park & Rec.

Paul recommended meeting with Park & Rec in Executive Session to develop a criterion and identify a list of 5-6 parcels to make inquiries re: potential availability.

Peter suggested OSC weed out unsuitable sites to reduce the list prior to discussions with Park & Rec. Committee agreed, Paul shared his thought that OSC should share the list of those sites kick-off the initial list due to unsuitable in case Park & Rec had questions.

Peter wondered if this type of meeting would qualify for Executive Session logistics wise. Paul pointed out that it qualifies due to discussion of land acquisition. It would require a quorum of both committees.

Rich will communicate to Dan to communicate to P&R with goal of getting a meeting on the calendar as soon as possible.

OSC Letter to Town Annual Report

Liz provided some edits to OSC report for Town of Harvard annual report. Committee added language describing CPIC application.

Report to Select Board

Peter shared slides he developed for update to Select Board on February 1, 2022.

The committee provided small suggestions and feedback for Peter to incorporate. The committee agreed the priorities for the meeting with SB are to gain feedback on capital plan for active rec and discuss potential changes to OSC charter.

Meeting Adjourned

9:25 am