

Minutes of Open Space Committee
Nov 5th, 2020
8:30 am (Zoom)

Members present: Peter Dorward, Tim Kilhart, Rich Maiori, Liz Allard, Dan Daly, Paul Cohen, Jim Lee, Gwen Leonard

Minutes from Oct meeting approved as written, vote unanimous

Jim gave update about the Stone field which was gifted to HCT as open space. The stewardship committee of HCT suggested a use plan for the land such that it would stay as active agriculture with the present farmer, if and when he is no longer interested in farming the land then HCT would solicit other farm uses, if no viable options present themselves, then it would consider requests for use as active recreation if a request is made. Dan asked if it would make sense for field search committee should make a pitch to HCT at this point. It was agreed, based on the succession plan outlined, that it would only make sense to make a request for use as playing fields once it is no longer being used as active ag.

Liz asked for volunteers for a member to the Climate Resiliency Working Group. No immediate takers but all are encouraged to consider.

Peter discussed a request by Sudbury Valley Trustees for topics for their upcoming Open Space Conference. Anyone with ideas bring them to SVT attention.

Rich described a process going on now, concerning parcels in town that under consideration for tax taking by the town. A list of properties were entered into the scoring metric and are now ranked by priority. None seemed to fit for active rec land at this point.

Peter presented the tools being developed for evaluation of rec land and open space land. Rec Land: Shared map showing parcels that have sufficient acreage(5+ acres), 3 degrees or less of slope totaling 3 acres, and access to roads. Now that there is a list this can now be culled through to evaluate priority parcels.

Jim suggested that since we now have a list of properties for OS and active rec, we should also have a set of rules guiding us on how to go about adding or subtracting from that list, parcels that may be outliers that should be either included for acquisition or removed. As an example, Fruitlands, although technically unprotected, should probably be dropped from priority list at this time. Jim will try to put together some guidelines to consider.

Peter continued description of tools for Open Space preservation. He showed maps of all metrics that we use to rank parcels and also showed a composite map combining all those metrics showing priority parcels. The evaluation can be presented in both map form and in excel spreadsheet form.

Peter previewed the presentation that will be brought to the SB describing our work to date. This includes the goals of the OSC, the tools and maps used to come up with our findings, and present a dollar amount that the town should budget for future preservation efforts on a yearly basis. It was suggested that the level would be \$175K/year.

Meeting adjourned 9:20 am. (unanimous)

Submitted by Jim Lee