

Town of Harvard Open Space Committee
December 10, 2020
8:30 am
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Peter Dorward (Chair), Jim Lee, Paul Cohen, Jo-anne Crystoff and Rich Maiore

Old Business

By unanimous vote, Committee approved minutes from OSC 11/5 meeting

Committee agreed next meeting date would be 1/14/21

Peter shared potential recreation sites via map. He determined there are numerous lots that meet criteria and suitable for recreation—flat, not near wetlands. From there the committee will begin to investigate each parcel to determine actual viability from rec point of view.

For Open Space/conservation criteria, Peter shared a minor change on possibly a distinction on evaluation and scoring of hay and pastureland so the scoring weight is the same as cultivated land.

Activate Recreation.

Committee discussed strategy of how to approach list of tax delinquent town land to determine whether to elevate it or remove from the list. Peter shared the scoring of the parcels on the list.

Paul walked the Committee through the process for the town to acquire land on the tax delinquent list. It is a time-consuming process that includes putting a lien on the property and going to land court to foreclose on the property. His experience many parcels on the list tend to be smaller and less desirable.

Committee discussed if and how to promote the list publicly. Jim pointed out the data is public but didn't see a need to put on town website/OSC page. Paul counseled that we should put up the information but not on GIS system. Committee discussed creating a high, medium and low priority ranking system of the parcels and putting that on the OSC website. Committee agreed with this approach but to remove specific scoring of each parcel.

The Committee also discussed the next step. Agreed to share list with Select Board to update them and gain support for moving ahead with prioritized parcels.

New Business

Committee approved draft of annual town report and the inclusion of protected/unprotected maps to accompany the letter.

Peter discussed developing priorities for 2021 and asked Committee to give thought to ideas for 2021.

Unanimous vote to adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9: 31 am.

Submitted by:
Rich Maiore