

Minutes of Open Space Committee
September 22, 2022

Members Present: Paul Cohen, Rich Maiore, Linda Dwight, JoAnne Crystoff, Dan Daly, Franklyn Carlson, Jim Lee and Peter Dorward.

John Lee representing Harvard Conservation Trust.

Minutes of previous meeting not ready yet to approve

Jim to take minutes of current meeting.

Next meeting Oct. 13, 2022, at 8:00am

Old Business:

Reaching out to owners of potential rec land.

Linda presented a draft of a letter that would be sent out to all landowners of parcels that fit the Rec field specifications. One suggested was added to the letter, which was that someone from OSC would likely be following up the letter with a phone call.

There was discussion as to how it would be "rolled out". Peter suggested that a handful of conservation minded landowners be contacted prior to the letter being sent out. The intent is to give them a heads up that the letter was coming and that it was not targeting them specifically. Paul suggested that the letter should be publicized to the fullest extent, with the intent to say to all landowner that the town is serious about acquiring land for rec.

Linda D. moved and Paul C. seconded the motion that the letter be sent out as amended(sentence stating follow-up phone call), and that the half a dozen people on the heads up list be contacted by phone prior to letter going out. All OSC members will be listed as sending the letter.

All members voted in favor of motion:

Linda volunteered to get the letter sent out.

Follow up discussion stated that the responses to the letter will be directed to Liz Allard at town hall who will direct who will respond to questions.

Open Space Plan Section Review:

Rec section: Not yet completed, Linda, Dan and Paul said that they would have something by next meeting.

Ag Section: Frank would try to get something for next meeting
Other sections have largely been handled by Peter and Liz.

Open Space Plan public meeting:

It was suggested that one public meeting would be held to discuss the whole Open Space Plan, once the final draft is completed. Draft will be sent out to general public several weeks prior to meeting

New business:

CPC applications:

Review of application to CPC from OSC in conjunction with Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT), for the purchase of a CR on land on Littleton County Road known as the Carlson Land. Application asks for total of \$250K. \$200K in the form of a new request, and \$50K to come from funds left over from the Still River Woods (SRW) project that did not come to fruition. HCT has committed to covering the remaining cost of land which has an appraisal of \$555K. Final price has not yet been negotiated.

The town would be purchasing a conservation restriction (CR) on the land and HCT would hold the land in fee. Wording of the CR has not yet been finalized, but is expected to be standard fare, which would include public access.

Jim L. moved and Rich M. seconded a motion to approve the application to CPC for the Carlson Land on Littleton County Road for an amount of \$550K,
Vote was unanimous in favor

Dan presented a request for CPIC funding for the purchase of land for Recreation fields. Requests asks for \$500K in FY 24 and \$500K in FY 25. He is seeking to have OSC along with School Committee and Park and Rec be co-Applicants. Peter asked why this would be different from last year's request to CPIC. Dan replied that this is for land acquisition, not design of land once land is found.

Peter was concerned that there was not a clear vision as to what was needed, in regards to # of users and total number of each type of field (softball/baseball, and rectangular).

Linda replied that there is indeed a document that outlines the need.

Discussion about how fields would be ultimately paid for and where they would be followed, but it was agreed by most that those details were outside of the actual request for finding land for recreation.

Linda D. moved and Paul C. seconded a motion to approve application to CPIC for funding of \$500K for FY 2024 for the purchase of Rec land.

Motion passed 6-1, Peter D. against, Jo-Anne C. not present for vote.