

Town of Harvard Open Space Committee
September 8, 2022 8:00 am
Minutes

Members present: Paul Cohen, Brian Cook, Dan Daly, Peter Dorward, Linda Dwight, Rich Maiore.

Franklyn Carlson and Jim Lee joined mid meeting.

Non-voting members present: Liz Allard

Also present: John Lee, HCT Trustee

Meeting called to order 8:05 AM.

Minutes of the 7/14/22 were reviewed and approved without change.

Old Business

Potential Active Rec Site Evaluation

Linda described a letter she had drafted and which was reviewed by Paul. She will send to Peter for discussion at the next OSC meeting. There was no discussion on how to handle the list of owners to be contacted.

Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Peter asked if anyone had any questions or changes to the OSRP survey results and analysis. Linda asked what the survey results are used for and how they will be made public. Peter indicated they drive section 7-9 of the OSRP (Needs, Goals & Objectives and Action Plan), and are required to be presented at a public meeting. He also suggested the survey results would be used in discussions with other boards – Select Board, CPC, CPIC, etc.

Peter asked if there had been any progress made on updates to the Recreation and Agriculture sections of the OSRP. Linda indicated they had not but would have something for the next meeting. Dan asked how edits to the OSRP should be made. Peter indicated he had previously sent out a Word document of the pertinent sections, but would do so again after the meeting.

New Business

Potential Sites for a new Ball Field

Peter reviewed the 3 sites that were visited on the recent site walk – next to the Ryan fields, the area along the road at Harvard Park, and the larger wooded area behind the track. Discussion of the potential sites included:

- Paul – we need to know if the wooded area in the front site at Harvard Park is wet or can be used
- Liz - prior wetland delineations show there is not sufficient space for a full field there
- Linda – the front space is too small, and it would displace javelin and shotput; it is also wet, so would require drainage
- Jim & Brian thought drainage would be required but could be done
- Dan – competing uses is an issue, P&R also brought up whether this was solving a Title 9 issue when there was none

- Peter reminded the OSC that we had been asked to find space for another ballfield, since the Town has lost two softball fields forcing conversion of one of the Ryan fields for softball use
- A discussion ensued about what OSC was chartered to do. Rich clarified that OSC has been asked by the Select Board to find a suitable site for another ballfield
- Brian pointed out that the sense during the site walk – although we could not make any decisions then – was that the two Harvard Park sites and the Ryan land site were the most promising, but that all had potential issues with being wet. So the next step should be to have the wetland delineation done.
- Linda asked where the funds to do the wetland survey would come from, and how the type of field would be determined.
- Rich indicated that the Select Board asked OSC to find a site for a ballfield at a minimum, and if possible for more fields.
- Dan said that the potential sites under discussion had already been deemed unsuitable by himself and others, and that OSC should move on to the third phase – siting an athletic complex.
- Paul made a motion to recommend to the Select Board that they engage to have a wetlands survey and engineering analysis performed to determine if fields could be placed on the two sites at the Harvard Park and the site next to the Ryan fields. Seconded by Jim.
 - Linda asked if the wetland delineations had already been performed. Liz responded they were last done in 2001, and not by one of the local firms, and recommended they be redone.
 - Motion unanimously approved.

CPC Application for Land Purchase

Peter showed the scoring map of OS parcels to protect, and indicated that the Littleton County Road parcel under discussion was in the top 25 parcels. Linda and Dan asked if the parcel was on the list of potential active rec sites, which it is.

Dan asked what process was used to get to the CPC application. Peter explained HCT had been talking to the land owners, and had approached OSC to help defray the cost of the acquisition.

Paul made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a potential land purchase. Motion seconded and approved unanimously. Franklyn Carlson left the meeting.

OSC came out of executive session.

CPIC application for Active Rec Fields

Dan indicated that there was a CPIC application that would need to be reviewed by OSC prior to the application deadline at the end of the month.

Next meeting was set for 9/22/22 at 8:00 AM.

Motion was made to adjourn and approved unanimously.

Submitted by: Peter Dorward