

**Town of Harvard
Open Space Committee
Minutes of August 11, 2022**

Attendees:

Peter Dorward
Rich Maiore
Dan Daly
Brian Cook
Jim Lee
Paul Cohen

Other Attendees

Jeff Legros, MRPC
Tom Cotton, HCT
John Lee, HCT & CPC

Old Business

July 14, 2022 Minutes---Approved Unanimously

OSRP---Peter asked for a quick update on sections of OSRP.

Dan said he'd confer with Linda and Paul about updating the Active Rec section

Peter indicated Franklyn will reach out to Ag. Commission about updating their section

Open Space Protection Update—Jim Lee provided update

Prospect Hill Community Orchard—Finalizing easement agreement, should be wrapped up in a few weeks. It then goes to the State, nothing likely to happen until spring/summer 2023.

Fundraising efforts are going well.

Potential Active Rec Site Evaluation

Paul said they have a draft of letter to land owners of favorable sites. Paul said he's provide draft to the Committee.

OSRP Survey Results Review—Jeff Legros provided overview of survey results

Survey Themes: Open Space Land Protection; Recreation Land and Recreation Facilities

Key Findings:

95% value open space:

In response to question, Should the Town Continue to Protect Open Space:

43% believe continue at current rate

37% increase rate

13% stop, focus on managing open space

7% decrease the rate

Peter asked OSC members to provide feedback to the executive summary. He'll collate and send feedback.

A draft copy of MRPC survey presentation will be posted on OSC webpage.

Softball Field Potential Sites

Peter reviewed memo by Town Administrator outlining recommended short and long-term steps to create a softball field and a potential field complex.

Dan Daly expressed support for Select Board's desire to hire a consultant to determine future needs.

The committee discussed a concurrent approach to identify a site or sites for a new field to add to the town's inventory, while at the same time looking for a larger parcel for a potential complex.

Peter has identified several town-owned parcels. He suggested we start further exploring those parcels for feasibility as an athletic field(s). There was agreement from OSC members to pursue this path.

Peter discussed potential dates later in August for site walks of potential parcels.

There was agreement Wednesday Aug 31 would be convenient date.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24

Next Meeting: September 8th, 2022