

Open Space Committee

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

MINUTES

- I. Attendance and Approval of April 25, 2024 minutes: Meeting called to order at 6:00pm. Present were members Lucy Abisalih, Dawn Ackerman, Mary Ann Glennon, Martin Hanlon, Sue Simmons, and Sandy Venner and guest, Bob Sinibaldi, DPW Director. Motion made and seconded by Sue and Mary and voted to approve April 25, 2024 minutes.
- II. Trail Activities:
 - Beaver Deceiver for McLaren Trail: Bob Sinibaldi reported that he asked Best Way Wildlife Control to come to assess the situation. Bob believes he can use funds intended for stormwater management to install the deceiver and repair damage to the bank. Therefore, funds from the Open Space trail maintenance account will not be needed. Motion by Dawn and seconded by Mary to rescind the vote of the April 25th meeting to set aside \$1,500 for this purpose supported by all.
 - Responses to letter to McLaren Trail abutters: Two abutters responded and inquired if others had also received the letter and one abutter expressed concern about trees along the trail that could fall onto their yard. Lucy has replied to these abutters. Lucy will contact UMass Extension to see if it is possible to get assistance identifying trees that may endanger abutters.
- III. Coordination with Master Plan Process: Due to an emergency, Sandy was unable to attend the community forum on Wed., May 15th. No other OSC members attended. Sandy will send a link with survey findings and slides used for the presentation.
- IV. Action on land between 82 & 84 Highland Road: Bob Sinibaldi requests that the OSC approve use of \$2,420 from the Trail Improvement funds for the Northpoint Survey Services assessment of trees to be removed. Dawn and Mary made the motion and seconded for payment of this invoice with all supporting. This led to further discussion on the need for funding and responsibility for necessary tree removal on all Town owned property. Bob would like to see a special account of up to \$25,000 set aside for this purpose. He has contracted with Northern Tree Service to do this work in the past, but DPW cannot afford to continue using its regular funds for this purpose. He proposed OSC Chair and Vice Chair be authorized to expend from such a fund up to a set limit. OSC members stated a discomfort with taking on this responsibility and it was decided further discussion was needed.
- V. Planning for Old Home Days: Dawn has requested booth space and had some ideas for new materials to display. Further planning for this August 8th event at the next meeting.
- VI. FY'24 Budget Plans and Expenditures: \$262 remains in the expense line item and \$2,900 in the trail improvement fund prior to the earlier vote to expend \$2,420.
- VII. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 11th at 5pm.