

Open Space Committee

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

MINUTES

- TOWN CLERK REVISED
'22 FEB 24 PM 4:17
- I. Attendance and Approval of Minutes: Present were Sue Simmons, Lucy Abisalih, Dawn Ackerman, and Sandy Venner. Guest were Jennifer Mansfield and Mary Ann Klenius. Motion made and seconded to approve minutes of December 28, 2021 meeting.
 - II. Summary and Next Steps for Recommendations in Open space Plan – Lucy shared the responses from departments re: recommendations in OSP. The Committee reviewed and expanded on the recommendations involving OSC. It was decided to discuss with the Selectmen a sign regarding kayak and canoe access to Merrimack River by Locust Street, better trail access for people with disabilities, and possible uses at Carriagetown Park.
 - III. Mass Trails Grant for Restoration of McLaren Trail – Lucy spoke with a representative from DCR and was told we needed to think big if we wanted to apply for a grant for accessibility for the McLaren Trail. There was further discussion of access from either Railroad Ave or Church St. Sandy will check property lines at RR Ave. It was decided not to attempt to apply for this grant this year.
 - IV. Plans for Community Garden – Sue and Jennifer arranged a site visit for January 27th with someone experienced in developing community gardens at Church Street and to go on to Carriagetown Park on Emery Street to access potential for gardens.
 - V. Request of Merrimac Wetlands Protection Bylaw – In reading the bylaw language, Sandy believes that the intent stated allows for a more flexible interpretation regarding nominal disturbance for trails. She discussed this with Denise McClure who advises the Town on development matters and can speak with the Conservation Agent.
 - VI. FY'22 Proposed Expenditures and FY '23 Budget Request – The Committee has not been asked to appear before the Finance Committee regarding its request for \$3,000 for tree removal. Motions were made and seconded and voted for purchase of following items:
 - Laminated maps and foam board not to exceed \$80 (Dawn & Lucy) vote 4-0
 - Trail map boxes not to exceed \$100 (Sandy & Lucy) vote 4-0
 - VII. Correspondence – Email from Heather Burkett re: The Flats affordable housing project; Call Sandy received from real estate agent for Waterhouse property with OS potential
 - VIII. Next meeting will be Feb. 22nd at 4pm. Adjourned at 5:35pm.

Sandra Venner
February 22, 2021