

Hamilton Open Space Committee  
Minutes of Meeting on January 23, 2018

Members Present: Gretel Clark, Marcia Dolce, Jackie Hodge, Rosemary Kennedy, Emer McCourt

Attending: Richard Boroff, Heidi Clark, George Tarr

Chair Clark opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Hodge circulated meeting minutes from 10/5. Meeting minutes approved unanimously. She also reminded members about recertifying for open meeting.

Ms. Hodge moved to request Jim Hankin to advertise for the opening in OSC. This motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Hodge reported on her and Zach Peters' attendance at the ConComm meeting to discuss the status of the OSC's comments on the OSRP plan. The ConComm concurred that it holds responsibility for the goals of the plan. Jim Hankin is open to including OSC on review of comments when he is ready, maybe for next meeting.

George Tarr updated the committee on the recent ConComm meeting; no decision was made on mowing of field at Patton Ridge on Asbury Street. They discussed mowing the section north of access road twice a year. Southern section has wetlands in it, so will never get mowed. Peter Britton has mowed this in the past and is willing to continue the mowing if allowed to.

No update on Central Street property; there is a need to do a survey to determine property lines. Will need management once boundaries are marked to prevent dumping.

The Hamilton Conservancy district was discussed. Last planning board meeting summary was given by Ms. Kennedy. State wetlands and local wetland bylaw act to protect areas that drain into other areas. Local conservancy district bylaw protects more than state law does.

The 11/4 special town meeting resulted in the defeat of 2 proposed bylaw changes. The OSC members are pleased with the turnout and demonstration that people in town value open space.

Heidi Clark made a presentation about the Cutler Rich property. She became aware of resident amphibians because of her house's proximity to the property, and recorded amphibian sounds. 5 different frogs are found in the wetland district. Live in uplands, farther than 100' from wetlands. Heidi was instrumental in having the vernal pools certified by state on property.

Dark sky bylaw draft was approved by the OSC and is ready to go to Con Comm as draft. Ms. Clark moved to send it to the Con Comm, which was approved unanimously. Next meeting agenda will include scenic roads bylaw, and is scheduled for 2/6.