

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting  
6/29/2017 at the HW Public Library

In attendance: Gretel Clark, Marcia Dolce, Jackie Hodge, Rosemary Kennedy, Emer McCourt and Zachary Peters.

Also present: Richard Boroff

The meeting was opened at 6:37 on Thursday, June 29, 2017 at the Hamilton Wenham Public Library. Jackie Hodge administered the meeting. The OSC reviewed and approved the previous meetings' minutes as prepared and circulated by Marcia Dolce. Then the group discussed the Conservation Committee's walks and reviews of Patton Ridge, Weaver Pond and Central Avenue. Regarding Weaver Pond, Mr. Peters had an opportunity to review the issues of flooding in the new parking lot at Weaver Pond. Mr. Peters informed the group that the Mr. Tim Olsen, the newly appointed head of the Town of Hamilton DPW recognizes the issues and is working to make changes to the parking which is causing the flooding. Regarding Central Avenue, Ms. Dolce attended that walk with the Conservation Commission. The site appears unchanged although some additional leaves may have been added. Of primary concern to the Conservation Commission was encroachment by the neighbors who are inclined to treat it as a communal area to dump yard waste. No potential uses have been identified as yet.

Regarding the Riverwalk at Patton Ridge, Gretel Clark updated the group with her findings on the signage. She had spoken with Anne Gero who confirmed that the Wetlands Delineation status had been successfully extended for three additional years. Gretel Clark informed the group that Dave Rimmer of the Essex County Greenbelt estimated a total cost of approximately \$300 to fabricate the signage for the Patton Riverwalk. (\$150 to be absorbed by the Town of Hamilton). Gretel Clark was planning to meet with a local signmaker, Jennifer Wright, to refine the Town Hall image for signage.

Jackie Hodge suggested to the group that a formal thank you be extended to Anne Gero for her tireless efforts on the OSC - all present approved.

Rosemary Kennedy updated the group on Jim Hankin & the Conservation Committee's progress on the revisions to the drafts OS Plan by the OSC. Mr. Hankin would like to review the entire document when the OSC provides him with Sections 8 & 9 (the Goals). Emer McCourt will recirculate the original goals and objectives that the group had agreed upon last summer. It was decided by the group to dedicate a future meeting to structuring the Goals and Objectives as part of the OS Plan.

The OSC discussed some future potential priorities and projects. Gretel Clark and Zachary Peters presented their findings on a Dark Sky Bylaw. Mr. Boroff stated that such a Bylaw would fall under the purview of the Planning Board. Mr. Peters agreed but suggested that the OSC would take an advocacy role by composing a letter of recommendation to the Town of Hamilton establishing its' importance. This role was approved by all members and Mr. Peters agreed to share his extensive research with Mr. Boroff and the OSC.

The OSC also discussed the importance of moving forward with the Scenic Road Bylaw and this initiative was also approved by the OSC.

Rosemary Kennedy agreed to be the formal liaison between the OSC and the Conservation Commission. The OSC voted unanimously for Gretel Clark to be the new OSC Chairperson.

The next OSC Meeting will be scheduled for 7/27/17 at 6:30 pm at the Hamilton Wenham Public Library.

The OSC Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.