

## Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Present: Gretel Clark, Marcia Dolce, Jackie Hodge, Rosemary Kennedy, Emer McCourt, Zachary Peters.

Also Present: Heidi Clark-Goldfeld, George Tarr

The meeting commenced at 6:30 when Jackie Hodge brought the meeting to order. Minutes from the last meeting were recirculated and approved unanimously. OSC members were reminded to complete and submit the Town of Hamilton Committee Ethics requirements. Gretel Clark had considered stepping aside from her role of OSC Chairperson. The OSC unanimously agreed that Gretel Clark should remain as Chair. Marcia Dolce agreed to keep track of the OSC's minutes (all OSC members will take turns recording the minutes & send them to Marcia) and distribute them to OSC members and to Jim Hankin of the Conservation Commission.

The OSC briefly discussed their proposed recommendation for a Dark Sky Bylaw. Jackie Hodge reported that she had sent the OSC's previously approved letter to Jim Hankin. It has been placed on the Con Comm's February 14 meeting agenda. All members of the OSC who can attend are encouraged to do so. Zach Peters indicated that he could attend and he reiterated that the OSC had been advised to draft a Dark Sky proposal but not an actual Bylaw. The OSC concluded that this progress was considerable and could produce a Bylaw in time for the April 2018 Town Meeting.

Some discussion on the abolition of the Town of Hamilton's Conservancy District ensued. It was agreed that while the reinstatement of the Conservancy District was important to the OSC and the interests of open space in Hamilton, its' abolition has already occurred and there is not much to be done. Gretel Clark pointed out that to a degree it has been superceded by the Wetlands Protection Act. The question before the OSC is how great is the disparity of the mapping between the Conservancy District and that of the Town's recognized Wetlands. Rosemary Kennedy added that within the regulations of the Wetlands Protection Act there is room for additional local requirements. Zachary Peters undertook to review the maps of both the Conservancy District and those covered by the Wetland Protection Act and present the disparities (if any) to the OSC.

Jackie Hodge reminded the OSC that the letter (dated 1/16/17) to the Town of Hamilton Planning Board regarding the Reinstating Roads over Wetlands Bylaw had never gotten a response. The OSC unanimously agreed that this was an issue that had direct OSC consequences and should be pursued. Gretel Clark agreed to see if the Planning Board had discussed the letter and if a vote had been taken.

Rosemary Kennedy presented a draft of the Scenic Roads Bylaw proposal. Currently the Town of Hamilton has no Scenic Roads Bylaw although we have a list of designated Scenic Roads.

According to Rosemary Kennedy only basic protections exist and there should be additional protections in place. She reviewed several small town bylaws (including but not limited to Lincoln & Harvard) and drafted a proposal for the Town of Hamilton. Zachary Peters had some suggestions such as providing a definition of “stone wall,” and changing “shown” to “verified” for Tree. The OSC agreed that it would be beneficial to review the Scenic Roads protection that adjacent communities have in place – Asbury Street in Hamilton runs into Topsfield and Highland Street, Hamilton runs into Mill Street in Ipswich for example. The OSC expressed their gratitude to Rosemary for her hard work and research.

The OSC meeting concluded at 8 pm. The date for the next meeting was set for Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.