

HAMILTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 30, 2019

Members Present: Angela Arvanites, Richard Boroff (Chair), William Kerr, Merle Olmsted, and George Tarr.

This meeting was called to order in the Memorial Room at Town Hall at 9:05 am with a quorum established.

**Approve minutes of April 18 and May 9, 2019.**

Motion made by George Tarr to approve the minutes of April 18 and May 9 2019.

Seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**George Tarr to inform the Committee of the site walk (May 24, 2019) at Patton Ridge.**

George Tarr recalled that Joe Domelowicz, Patrick Reffett, Kaleigh Pare, and Tim Olson were present at the walk. The group walked to the pond first and Mr. Tarr showed them where the wetland garden would be installed. Mr. Domelowicz liked the concept of educating the public to what the Conservation Commission did. Much of the area was in the 100' buffer zone for wetlands, therefore, the Conservation Commission would have jurisdiction. The walk had not been discussed with the Commission to date. Mr. Domelowicz wanted to increase the public access to the area and if conveying the extra area to the Conservation Commission accomplished that goal, he was in favor of the transfer.

George Tarr explained that the group walked to the woodland road, the end of which was on Green Meadow's property and not open to the public. The group had located the culvert for an artificial stream that emptied the pond into the wetlands on the other side of the marsh area. Mr. Tarr hoped to have the area revert to meadow. Mr. Tarr recalled that the tank had traversed the area without ConsCom permission and created ruts that were not repaired. Mr. Tarr said he did not want the tank to go on the far side of the culvert in the future. Mr. Tarr's long term plans were to plant a forest of American chestnuts that were important to wildlife. The disease that killed the American chestnut had not yet been eradicated but scientists were crossbreeding American chestnuts with European chestnuts that were resistant to the blight. Mr. Tarr would look for seeds or seedlings of the new strain to create a forest that appeared to be similar to one that Europeans saw when they first arrived in New England. The forest would become an attraction similar to the wetlands garden. Mr. Tarr added that Joe Domelowicz's goal was to make people aware of the property and increase use and visibility of the site.

The canoe launch area was visited, which was not under the control of the Conscom. George Tarr recalled that Tim Olson suggested dredging both sides of the launch area to make it useable during times when the river water level dropped. Richard Boroff recalled three other launch sites

in the area that were available. Mr. Tarr added that Mr. Olson wanted to add a picnic table near the launch site. Minor upgrades to the site were considered.

The Greenbelt observation platform and pump house was visited by the group. The pump house was not part of the Homestead property but a separate parcel owned by the Town. The area currently could allow for four or five cars but Tim Olson reportedly suggested cutting down trees to make enough space for 15 cars. It was questioned if enough activity in the area would warrant such an improvement. A kiosk at the pump house was considered. Mr. Olson reportedly suggested moving the Asbury St. gateway to the area near the pump house to prevent people from driving down to the launch area. George Tarr said the Commission would consider the change. The one lane road might be considered a safety hazard in the case of an emergency even though access could be found through Green Meadows Farm.

The right of way between Patton Ridge units one and twelve was discussed. The public had the right to use the road. The beech trees were discussed and mulch would be cast under the trees to eliminate the undesirable vegetation. Tim Olson would be responsible for finding mulch and having vegetation removed even though George Tarr thought he would eventually do the work. The meadow areas were to be mowed twice year but had not been mowed at all. Mr. Tarr noted that a Notice of Intent would be required to remove vegetation. Richard Boroff discussed that buckthorn had been removed at the Audubon's site by cutting and then painting the stumps.

**Discussion of the update from Joe Sacchi of MAPC.**

Reportedly Joe Sacchi suggested the committee review the previous versions of the goals but William Kerr said Chris Davis had done a competent job of creating condense, flexible goals. It was agreed that implementing the goals was not part of the section. George Tarr noted the promotion of Patton Ridge was paramount and that the goals needed to include the aspect of promotion. The committee decided to add “k. promote the awareness and use of open space lands.”

**Any other topics that the chair cannot reasonably anticipate but that are important and timely to the Committee.**

Richard Boroff would send members the map of the Sanctuary and Audubon properties and set up a meeting with the Sanctuary Director.

**Adjournment**

Motion made Angela Arvanites to adjourn.

Seconded.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn at 10:01 am.

Prepared by:

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Marcie Ricker

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Attest: