HAMILTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 23, 2020

Members Present: Angela Arvanites, Richard Boroff (Chair), Mo Olmsted, Bill Kerr, Chris Davis and George Tarr.

Others Present: Bob Woodbury (liaison CapCom)

1. The minutes of December 5, 2019, and January 9, 2020, were approved unanimously.
2. The chair gave a brief overview of his discussions with:

Hamilton CPC: They were glad I came because they need to know, for planning, what to expect for requests at least 1-2 years out.

Joint Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Board: The fields are in bad shape from overuse, and are seeded 2x per year. A turf field for the football field would take a lot of pressure off some of the fields.

Ernest Ashley, Chair of the Wenham OSRC: They are not so much concerned with turf as with all the fields.

Peter Gourdeau of H-WTURF - Towns United for Recreation Fields (Facebook) They need the School Committee to do a Memo of Understanding concerning collecting donations for a turf field. When the MOU is completed his group will be able to start collecting money from donors.

1. General Discussion

Chris stated that turf fields are the most important because it will take the pressure off the other fields.

Someone suggested the turf field could also be rented out.

Bob W. stated that Wenham is taxed financially.

Progress is being made with the Rich property (Meadowbrook Farm area on Essex St.) and Greenbelt and the owner are talking again.

Wet fields are considered to be a safety factor and can result in injuries. It is a question also of town pride to have a turf field and the town is a laggard in this area, There are only 2 school districts in the Cape Ann League without one.

Chris left early at 9:45

1. Other topics discussed.

Bill mentioned a need for continuity of a multi-use trail systems for runners, dogs, horses and bikers. They also need to be linked

A set of trails goes from Manchester to Georgetown

An organization named STRAVA has heat maps that are good for trails.

Adjourned at 10:05