

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Meeting January 12, 2012 City Hall Annex Pond Rd Gloucester

5:30 pm -7:30 pm

In attendance: Stephen Winslow, Greg Cademartori, John McElhenny, Charles Crowley, Noel Mann, Patti Amaral, Susan Hedman and Heidi Wakeman

Community Boating

Guests in attendance; 2 representatives from Community Boating

They are interested in promoting the harbor as open space through community boating. Currently running 2 programs High School Sailing Program (SailGHS.com) and YMCA Sailing camp.

They are looking for a permanent home and would like to engage Ten Pound Island as a part of their programming. One site that they mentioned as a possible home could be the Fitz Hugh Lane House. This would give them the necessary space for equipment and changing in and out of dry suits. Solomon Jacobs Landing would be a convenient public landing space. For the summer sailing programs, they have had floats and a floating structure off of the Jodrey Pier. During the school year they are using a space donated by a local business.

While the committee liked the idea of recreational use of our harbor as open space, there were questions whether the Harbor Masters Office and Waterways Committees should be involved and that there may be money through related programs.

Good Harbor Beach Marsh

Guests: Paul Mc Geary and

Two representatives of the Friends of Good Harbor Beach were in attendance in regard to a proposal to buy an area at the corner of Witham St and Thatcher Rd to avoid it being developed. This land was filled and the owner has gained permission to develop this site. The poor economy seems to have stalled the project and the FGHB contacted the owner regarding selling the lot and developing a marsh restoration program. Part of the program would include a boardwalk along Thatcher Rd. for pedestrian travel. The boardwalk would be an asset and would be good for public safety as the road is very narrow.

The OSRC was impressed by the work of this group and found the project to be consistent with the goals of the committee. Suggestions were made for how to precede with this project and local land trust groups that could also be of assistance in putting together this project.

This also prompted some discussion about access to Good Harbor Beach parking lot year round. This and other facilities are being closed by the DPW for large portions of the year. The OSRC questions this practice and would like to amend this practice to make access consistent through out the year.

Tompson Woods-

The sale of the parcel has closed and CPA funds are being used as part of this.

North Gloucester Woods

The North Gloucester Woods study is now complete. The recommendation is for the city government to establish an official recreation/conservation area with appropriate ordinances for public use. Then key parcels can be kept in mind for future purchase to expand the area. The study also notes access points, trails, private lands, and unclear parcels (parcels where ownership

is unclear or are not current on taxes). Some question regarding the naming of the area, as park indicates more active use and this is meant to remain woodland.

Mt. Ann

Charlie reported that some access points to reopen Mt. Ann could be fraught with discontent from neighbors, New Way Lane, Lawrence Mt. Rd. Forest St.

So his latest suggestion is access from a combined parking area by Red Rocks and Tompson Woods. The land between the storage center and Rt. 128 is state property and this could be made for parking. A walkway along the highway back to the original entrance of Mt Ann would then have to be created.

A very busy meeting was adjourned at 7:30 and the next meeting was scheduled for February 16 at 5:30 for the same location.