

CITY OF GLOUCESTER

Open Space and Recreation Committee

3 Pond Road, Gloucester, MA 01930

Tel 978-281-9781 (c/o the Community Development Department)

Meeting Minutes November 20, 2014

Members Present: Noel Mann, Jerry Goulart, Charlie Crowley, John McIlhenny

Not present: Patti Amaral, Susan Hedman, Heidi Wakeman

Guests: Stephen Winslow, Mass in Motion – Cape Ann, Lara Lepionka, Backyard Growers

Meeting held at 3 Pond Road

I. Minutes: No Action

II. Old Business: None

III. New Business

- a. Backyard Growers – Urban Farm: Lara Lepionka attended to discuss an idea for a Backyard Growers “Urban Farm” that could serve both as an education center and a source of fresh food potentially for the Open Door mobile markets. Expected space needs 10,000 square feet or more. She plans to explore options on both City and non-profit land. Charlie Crowley pointed out that if BYG pursues Community Preservation funds for improvements on City land, the City Council Planning and Development committee would need to vote for an exclusive use of the land.
- b. Dogtown Discovery Trail Loop – Nick Holland of Cape Ann Trail Stewards submitted a proposal to develop a marked trail along the major trails within Dogtown connecting Whale’s Jaw, Granny Day’s Swamp, Peter’s Pulpit and Nellie’s trail. Committee members commented that they liked that the trail marking would be focused on one major trail loop and leave the other portions of Dogtown for free exploration. Motion by Noel Mann, 2nd by Charlie Crowley for the OSRC to support the marking of the “Dogtown Discovery Trail” – Passed 4-0

IV. Plan Implementation

- a. West Gloucester: Steve Winslow and Charlie Crowley will meet after Thanksgiving to go to the Fernwood, Laurel Street and Forest Lane locations to measure out the proposed parking / access areas so a specific proposal can be submitted to DPW
- b. Trail signage: Committee members supported the idea of seeking ~\$5000 in CPA funds for trail signs for ~ 10 major access points including Fernwood, Laurel Lane, Forest Lane, Dogtown (2), Poole’s Hill (2), Plum Cove Recreation Trail.

V. Grant/Assistance Opportunities

- a. Light-Up Mattos: has been accepted for a CPA grant. Next step will be to get locations for borings from MUSCO and then quotes from boring contractors (\$12,769)
- b. Other CPA applications: Applications for the Burnham’s Field Garden fence (\$10,000) and ballfield backstops (\$50,000) have also been accepted. If possible, Patti Amaral has asked that fencing taken down at Burnham’s be shifted over to Mattos.

VI. Other Updates

- a. Finding Dogtown: Very well-attended – over 200 people. Someone should get a copy of the sign-in sheet so we have contact information to garner support for other initiatives to help preserve and protect Dogtown.
- b. The Oval – thanks to numerous volunteers the play equipment is in. Site work should be completed by early December. An opening date is TBD depending upon the weather.
- c. Mass in Motion – Cape Ann – Steve Winslow continues to transition to this new role which will continue his work on Active Street and trails, just on a regional level. This may mean that he will eventually be available only every other month for meetings..
- d. Annisquam Woods – Gregg Cadematori reports: the LAND grant did not come through. Greenbelt and the City will continue to look at options for this.

VII. Next Meeting

January 15th, 2015 – 7 PM 3 Pond Road

Note: No December meeting

Happy Holidays - Steve