

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 19, 2015

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Approved
11/14/2015

Meeting held in 3rd floor conference room at Gloucester City Hall

Members Present: Stephen Winslow, Noel Mann, Susan Hedman, Charlie Crowley, John McElhenny, Jerry Goulart, Patti Amaral

Guests : Charlie Olson, Nicki Bogen, Sandy Barry, Linda Brayton, Richard Jabba , Bob Caron and Bonnie Gunn

Meeting start 7:05 Minutes of Sept. meeting were read and accepted

Marble Road Conservation Area There is a five acre property for sale that is adjacent to the current conservation area, and it is at a low market price. Many neighbors from this area of East Gloucester attended the meeting as they were interested in the possibility of adding the 5 acres to the conservation area and were looking for guidance from the OSRC. Charlie Crowley suggested to get Essex County Greenbelt involved as they are professionals and deal with this type of work all the time and provide accurate assistance on the process. It was also suggested that the group could form a non-profit group such as the "Friends of Marble Road Conservation Area". This would allow them to raise money and apply for grants. OSRC Committee does support this activity as consistent with OSRC goals of expanding conservation areas particularly ones that add to existing properties and add connectivity. Tried to vote on this but didn't know how to phrase it. Committee will continue to review further action.

Dog Ordinance Amendments: OSRC is not sure if this is an OSRC issue. Two individuals came to the meeting to express their interest in making Gloucester a more "dog friendly" city.

Dogtown Land held by Conservation Commission is not being taken care of as there is no management of these parcels. This means the State could potentially fine Gloucester for not fulfilling obligations. Currently the Conservation Commission has turned over care to the DPW and the lands are being treated as unencumbered rather than as conservation land. It was suggested that a meeting of OSRC with Conservation Commission be planned to review this stewardship role.

West Gloucester Trail Access: Public meeting about proposed public access was very successful. Larry Durkin from the Water Department and Police Department representatives were in favor of access. The Forest Lane Parking area should be moving forward soon.

Addison Bray Property & TTOR Charlie spoke with David Santomenta regarding the purchase of this property as a way to reopen access to historic Mount Ann Park.

Mattos Field Lights: CPA Dec. 8th applying for a Parc Grant \$110,000, partnering with OMalley to reduce lighting costs.

Open Space and Industrial Park in West Gloucester: Land taken for watershed using article 97 conservation is not being held as conservation and needs to be protected as such according to the law. This is land designated as having a high conservation value. Charlie complained of an inadequate database of our open space as being part of this problem and our stewardship responsibility to keep such conservation restrictions clear. Motion was made to write a letter from OSRC to remind the EDIC (Economic Development and Industrial Corporation) of these restrictions.

Meeting adjourned 9:25 pm minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Hedman