

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 May 19, 2016

Members Present: Stephen Winslow, Susan Hedman, Noel Mann, Charlie Crowley, John McElhenny
Guests : J.D. MacEachern, Ron Desisto

Meeting start 7 pm. Minutes of March OSRC meeting were read and accepted.

OPEN SPACE PLAN

The committee needs to anticipate the writing of another Open Space and Recreation Plan to comply with state requirements. The current plan is good through mid 2017.

Discussion of goals the committee like to achieve in the new OSRC plan?

Open Space Inventory: to create an accurate inventory of city owned parcels that would include the protection and use of each property. Many properties gained through grants are not at this time designated with the appropriate protections. This needs to be a more comprehensive list and land parcels should be categorized.

Climate Change: The committee feels that the next plan should take into consideration potential changes in the climate such as sea level rise when developing the next plan. Sea level rise in a coastal city will have impacts. Coastal saltmarshes will need to be protected more vigorously as they are a buffer to flooding. It is suggested that members look at the OSRC plans in Rockport and Essex to see how they are addressing climate change issues.

Grasslands: In the state, Grassland habitat is the most under pressure habitat as a great deal of Massachusetts is now heavily reforested. Development of land has also added to this. Many previously abundant species are now scarce. How can we protect the few grassland habitats we do have?

Wetland Coastal Habitat: Development of land has also put pressure on the wetland coastal habitats and we have many important places to protect. This may include: Ten Pound Island, Salt Island, and Gloucester City Beaches and Parks.

Sub Committees: The development of subcommittees was suggested to parcel out this work. The incorporation of associate members into the OSRC that would work on these single issue committees.

DOGTOWN CONSERVATION This group could function as a subcommittee to OSRC. This would involve delegation and a memorandum of understanding with the OSRC.

May 11th Stewardship Meeting: was held in the Lanesville community center. Val Gilman was there and about 20 citizens attended.

Light up Mattos :there is a bid package for the lights

Stagefort Park Grant: has gone to the next level, accepted by the state and a CPA matching grant application has been made. There was conflict over the idea of bonding out the grant as this would commit the city to a long-term debt that might preclude the purchase of other parcels in the future that could need protection. A special meeting regarding the CPA grants will be set up.

Mass in Motion

Heart Healthy Trails and the development of better fire roads could work in tandem. Could be a subcommittee. Team Gloucester, runners may have interest in this. Bob Gillis would be the person to contact.

Trail at the Babson Spillway- public funding?

Next meeting: 6:30 July 21st at Stagefort Park

Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Hedman

*approved
7/21/2016
SPH*