



Open Space and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes January 20, 2011

3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA

Members in Attendance: Charles Crowley, Patti Amaral, John McElhenny, Susan Hedman.
Not Present: Dan Morris, Dean Murray, Noel Mann

Guests in Attendance: Stephen Winslow, Community Development Department

I. Intro /Administrative

Minutes: Minutes of December 2011 meeting – No Discussion

Status of Memberships/ Administrative Issues: Dan Morris has expressed interest in handing off the chairmanship responsibility.

II. Grant /Assistance Opportunities Update:

CPA Grant: The B&F Subcommittee voted favorably to recommend the North Gloucester Woods Existing Conditions Study to the entire City Council

Field of Dreams Grant – Mattos: Patti Amaral will follow-up in the spring on this grant from Granite State Electric that could fund new lighting at Mattos Field

PARCS Grant: The City anticipates submitting PARC grant applications for Newell Stadium and Burnham's in July 2011. Community meetings (with daycare) must be held. John McElhenny offered to work to review the grant application when it comes out to ensure the application secures every point for Gloucester. Patti Amaral could arrange for a sitter at a Burnham's Field meeting. The meeting on the Burnham's Garden would be an appropriate one to include enhanced outreach. That is tentatively scheduled for February 9th (maybe 8th) at a location to be determined (St. Ann's or Willow Wood). John reported that 25 people had expressed interest in gardening at Burnham's Field, including Gorton's. A meeting will be set up with DPW to investigate what would be needed to provide water service.

III. Plan Implementation

North Gloucester Woods – A meeting to discuss management strategies for the publicly-owned quarries in North Gloucester has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday March 1st. More information to come.

Gloucester's Woods and Watersheds – Stewardship strategies for the future:

Charlie Crowley handed out an example table of allowable uses. He pointed out that watershed land have regulations, city ordinances set rules for fields and playgrounds while no rules cover other woods and open space. The matrix would be an initial way to develop allowable uses. The open spaces would be mapped into various zones, allowable uses would be identified for each type of zone and then the uses could be codified by reference to the map. Charlie will work with Gregg Cademartori to develop the zones, recommend uses and then circulate the map and use matrix to DPW, the Board of Health, Police, Fire and then to the Council for final review. The intent will not to add or change rules, the focus will be on sort out what rules apply where. The rules can then be reviewed whenever a new Open Space and Recreation Plan is developed.

IV. Finalizing the Plan

Steve met with the Independent Living Center to take further comments on the ADA section of the plan. Access to bathroom facilities and routes to key facilities were identified as the most important items to focus on.

Action Items:

West Gloucester Woods / Red Rocks Parking: Preparations should begin soon on possible options for CPA grants to improve access and parking to this area. This should involve Larry Durkin, Trustees of Reservations, Essex County Greenbelt and Councillor Verga.

Next Meeting: Thursday February 17th, 2010 Pond Road

Meeting Adjourned