



**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE
[12/14/2022]
[5:30pm]
[City Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room]
[Heidi Wakeman]**

MINUTES

Present Members: Heidi Wakeman, Mark Poulin, Noel Mann, Dan Morris

Absent Members: Dave Sargent, Liam Anastasia-Murphy, Richard Quateman

Staff: None present

I. Administrative Briefing

- OSRC Chair Heidi Wakeman opened the meeting by conducting a roll call and welcoming the public in attendance.
- Group discussion congratulating Gemma Wilkens on her new role as Sustainability Coordinator
- HW reminded committee members that the Mayor's Holiday Party was coming up and that volunteer committee members are welcome.
- HW informed us that emails and phone numbers are no longer listed on the OSRC website per current policy.
- HW stated that Cape Ann Trail Stewards (CATS) has a new board member that wants to meet with OSRC.

II. Business

- HW used last meeting's reference to Pickleball to continue the discussion about points of contact within the city to reach out to when someone or group from the public wants to promote an idea or share a concern related to open space. DM shared insights on project initiation and discussed costs and trade-offs using existing open spaces for pickleball, as an example. Group discussed flow charts vs. descriptive lists or directories to channel input and ideas to the relevant departments within the city.
- MP provided a Community Preservation Committee update: Budget and Finance has approved all proposed projects submitted by CPC including the recommended funding amounts; clearing the way for City Council to put the list of projects on their agenda.
- Two items on the posted agenda were tabled due to absence of Planning Director Gregg Cademartori: Item 2a- Next steps for OSRC plan and 2b-Update on proposed floodplain zoning.
- HW stated she will present the OSRC plan to City Council, outlining Goals 1- 5 in the plan.
- DM outlined and spoke on ways to promote OSRC Goal 4. It was noted that Salem and Beverly have good plans and strategic planning process. We need to pause, collaborate and participate in the process!
 - Goal 4 - Protect and Improve Gateways to and Create Strategic Connections between Open Space and Recreation Areas.

- 4A: Promote cycling, walking and other forms of self-propelled travel throughout the City by improving multimodal connections and wayfinding to provide safe travel.
- 4Ai. Identify and improve off and on-road connections and develop an online map of bike lanes, bike-safe streets, multi-use paths, off-street trails, and other cycling accommodations and services
- 4Aii. Comply with the City's Safe and Accessible Streets Policy
- 4Aiii. On an annual basis, poll cyclists and pedestrians to collect and analyze information from the Gloucester Police Department regarding accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians
- 4Aiv. Compile a list of safety concerns and consult with DPW, GPD, and other relevant departments to address them on an annual basis.
- HW challenged members of the committee to reach out to Ward councilors in support of OSRC goals and to bring an idea to our next meeting.
- The OSRC committee should meet with the DPW and Community Development to review the plan goals in the 1-3 year timeframe.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Brown, 145 Essex Ave mentioned that 93% of survey respondents said the state of our open spaces was satisfactory and raised concerns that organizations and businesses promoting the use of Dogtown for recreational purposes pose a threat; though no specific threat was mentioned.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Motion to Approve Minutes for 08/10/22 and 11/02/22 was made by Heidi Wakeman, seconded by Dan Morris and unanimously approved.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Heidi Wakeman, seconded by Noel Mann , and unanimously approved.

VI. NEXT MEETING

January 11, 2023