

## OSRC Minutes 7 July 2021

OSRC Chair Heidi Wakeman, read the standard remote participation/open meeting statement. Roll call to begin meeting. Members present: Heidi Wakeman (HW), Dave Sargent (DS), Noel Mann (NM), Daniel Morris (DM), Liam Anastasia-Murphy (LAM) and Mark Poulin (MP).

Staff present: Gregg Cadematori (GC), Planning; Gemma Wilkins (GW)

NM had a question about how to find the meeting agenda. GC indicated that it had been posted and accessible via the City calendar.

HW announced that Liam Anastasio-Murphy (LAM) has recently been approved as a new OSRC member. We still have one opening we would like to fill. LAM joined the meeting later in the proceedings, as did City staff member, Gemma Wilkins.

No members of the public spoke during the opportunity for public comment.

1. Open Space Mapping. GC reported on progress on the open space inventory maps. Inventory includes public parks and beaches, as well as properties that may have conservation or recreation potential and are not currently protected or owned by the City. GW, he said, has done the legwork and QA/QC on the mapping. We note that the resulting maps will very markedly from what state thinks Gloucester holds/recognizes as open space. The additional layers should help with planning and acquisition work in the coming years. And it should be more informative to the public. GC urged members to review the maps carefully. GC noted that there are some plots that lack complete data. They are working with the Assessor's Office to more fully describe all of the properties.

DS noted that bodies of water are not depicted on the maps, which is a bit disorienting. Also, there were two duplications – Boynton Island and Castle View Drive – and need to be edited out. GC indicated that work will continue.

DM asked about the format of the OSRP, and whether there will be an electronic supplement to the printed document. GC indicated that the OSRP would stand alone as a printed document, but that members and super-users would maintain and update the e-map layers.

NM said that having access to the plot listing software would be helpful for someone researching conservation opportunities. GC explained which data sets and tools for accessing them are available. GW talked a bit about her work and adding useful data to the set. HW acknowledged NM's work and comprehensive knowledge of Gloucester plots and their history.

2. Survey #2 and Outreach. HW: the survey is ready for distribution and MAPC's table for contacting organizations in the community is available for members. The survey will be available for four weeks. GC said he's hoping to have hundreds of respondents. He will speak at the City Council meeting about the survey and will use City's social media tools to spread the word. Will use MAPC's intro language. Will send the prompt to all committees,

boards, and commissions. Also, will broadcast to all City and schools staff. MP noted the MAPC table. He asked if members can use City printers for flyers.

DM noted that the survey asks for respondents to provide feedback on their personal preferences, interests, and aspirations. And he asked if committees, boards, commissions, and City departments would be queried regarding their institutional relationship (concerns, plans, interests) regarding open space and recreational facilities. The idea is to ensure OSRC recommendations are on target, practicable, and actionable. GC acknowledged the point and talked about the possibility of engaging those bodies as we have a draft plan to run by them, likely in the fall.

3. OSRP Timeline. MAPC's draft timeline was reviewed. GC noted how the survey leads into drafting of the final plan, probably in the fall.

[Chair HW led a quick set of the rock-scissors-paper game to clear the members' heads.]

4. Social Media. Survey responses indicate that social media are a primary means for getting information. HW inquired of the City whether/how the OSRC could have an official social media presence. At present the City does not have a policy for allowing committees, boards, and commissions to have their own social media accounts. But they may consider it. So at present we have no guidance. HW noted that she may use her personal accounts to link OSRC announcements. She also noted that other towns seem to allow committees to have social media accounts (cited Beverly). GC responded that the City has grappled with this before. Difficult issue. We may be able to use the Mayor's account for select announcements. GC indicated that there may be open meeting issues if there is engagement on an issue via social media.

5. Salt Island. HW noted that the possibility of some development or new use of Salt Island has been in the news. MP noted that Salt Island is contemplated in the old the OSRP and it was noted in survey responses as a favorite place. There's a lot of concern about Salt Island. A Save Salt Island group has formed. DS noted that this isn't the first time Salt Island has been at risk of some sort of development. A Conservation Commission meeting will address Salt Island on 21 July. This point sheds light on the work of the OSRC and the importance of having values and goals specified in an open space plan.

6. Other business. HW and GC discussed the timing of the next meeting, especially as it relates to the close-out of the survey. They also discussed the idea of establishing a sub-committee to work on engagement across boards, committees, commissions and departments. DM moved to establish the subcommittee. MP seconded, and the OSRC passed the motion unanimously by voice vote. DM, HW, and MP would comprise the sub-committee.

7. DS moved to adjourn, MP seconded, and the OSRC passed the motion unanimously by voice vote. Meeting closed.