

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 January 15, 2015

Members Present: Stephen Winslow, Noel Mann, Patti Amaral, Heidi Wakeman, Susan Hedman, John McElhenney Guests: Nick Holland (CATS) and Dave Morrow, Meeting in conference room 7 pm. At City Hall Annex Pond Rd. Minutes from October and November reviewed and accepted

Massachusetts Self-Help Parcels, Noel is working to compose letter to the Conservation Commission regarding parcels acquired through the Self-Help Program in the 1980's. These properties are open to the general public for appropriate recreational use and must be protected as open space under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth. In last fifteen years there has been no active management of these parcels. As such, the suggestion is to have the Conservation Commission give a Conservation restriction to the Essex County Greenbelt on these parcels. This would ensure more active management of these lands both for ecological and recreational values.

VOTE: Motion to have Noel compose the letter to the Conversation Commission asking for a Conservation restriction on these parcels. Vote: 4 in favor, one abstention. Motion passed

Noel will send letter to all members of Open Space for review before sending to Conservation Commission.

Village at Magnolia Woods–Easements Dave Morrow, a Magnolia resident and a Cape Ann Trails. Steward spoke to the OSRC about the new development in Magnolia that is adjacent to numerous hiking trails. This would provide a to link 250 acres of city land at Magnolia Woods which also has a connection to Ravenswood and Rafe's Chasm. The developer is eager to grant easements to link into this trail system. We have a grantor in the developer and need a grantee to give the easement to. City has to accept the easement, but in the meantime the CATS group could hold the restriction and the City could take it over when they can get it onto the city council agenda. With the Mayor and City Solicitor both leaving recently, it may take a while to get this on the agenda. The OSRC members agreed that this would be a productive move as it enhances connectivity and public access to Gloucester's Open Space, which are goals of this committee.

VOTE: Motion to have the OSRC endorse action to gain said easements in Magnolia Village that connect to existing trail system. Vote: 5 in favor, unanimously passed

Dave Morrow, and CATS will work on this project and may enlist Ward 5 Representative Bill Fonvielle to get this to city council.

Dogtown Loop Nick Holland spoke to the committee about a simple four mile loop trail that has been designed by CATS. They have signage in the form of small plastic discs with the CATS logo. To mark the route, these would be attached to trees at a high enough level so as to discourage vandalism. CATS would like to develop community activities to bring attention to this new trail. OSRC was in favor of this project as it also encourages use of public lands in Gloucester Open Space. There will still be a large part of Dogtown unmarked and left for exploration.

TrailHeads After discussions about the need for increased access to public lands and talks with the DPW, Stephen Winslow has but together 3 proposed areas for Trailhead parking improvements. These three places are Forest Lane, Laurel Lane, and Fernwood Lake. All are established places of use for recreation.

VOTE: Motion to have the OSRC authorize Stephen Winslow to apply for CPA funding for trailhead signage. Vote: 5 in favor, passed unanimously

Mattos Field Patti Amaral reported on recent improvements to the property and increased use of the field by additional local groups including the High School Girls. Boring work to provide holes for light fixtures have been completed. Still another \$100,000 to raise for the light fixtures. Bowling Fund raiser this weekend. Hope to apply for a PARC grant this year to complete work.

Dog Officer Heidi Wakeman reported meeting the new full time dog officer who was friendly and had printouts of the new ordinances regarding dogs. **Meeting adjourned 8:59** minutes submitted Susan Hedman