



Open Space and Recreation Committee  
Meeting Minutes September 23, 2010

Community Development Conference Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 3 Pond Road

Members in Attendance: Stephen Winslow, Dan Morris, Gregg Cademartori, Charles Crowley, Patti Amaral, John McElhenny, Noel Mann, Susan Hedman and Dean Murray.

Guests in Attendance: Judi Masciarelli (representative from Gloucester Dog Park)

**Minutes:** Minutes for the August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved with amendments.

**Administrative Issues:** Patti Amaral submitted her letter for appointment to OSRC.

**City Council Request – Dog Park Site Recommendation**

The Dog Park Sub-Committee presented a Statement of Support and Recommendation for possible site locations(see attached Exhibit A).

A Motion was made and approved to accept the sub-committee recommendation. All in favor – none opposed.

**Grant /Assistance Opportunities Update:**

CPA

No update for the CPA Grant for \$30,000 for North Gloucester Woods project.

PARCS Grant

Burnham's Field grant application has been resubmitted.

CELCP

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) sent Dan Morris a letter regarding the Magnolia Hill Conservation Project. The project was ranked 23 out of 45 projects nationally and fell short of the \$3 million funding request. TPL remains hopeful that an opportunity to protect the property will emerge in the future.

National Park Service

No update

## **Plan Implementation**

Chairman Dan Morris initiated a conversation regarding the implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Members were given the opportunity to discuss potential projects for the coming year(s):

Patti Amaral – Matos Field renovation and Emerald Park conservation

Susan Hedman – Possible connection from Annisquam to the Boulevard emphasizing better pedestrian sidewalks.

Dean Murray – Would like to take a comprehensive look at the inventory of city ballfields to determine the number of new fields needed for the various youth and adult sports programs. Part of this effort would include prioritizing renovations to existing fields as well as locating a large parcel of land (15-30 acres) for a comprehensive recreational facility.

Charles Crowley – Expressed need for a comprehensive management plan for all recreational parks and trails (Mt. Anne, Red Rocks, Dogtown) as well as improved trails from Gloucester to Rockport.

Noel Mann – Continue efforts with the North Gloucester Woods project and complete the inventory of land including West Gloucester and surrounding islands.

Dan Morris – Reiterated the need for a comprehensive management plan for all recreational parks and trails. Most important is for the OSRC to develop sensible and string proposals for every round of CPA funding.

### **Action Items for next meeting:**

- Members be prepared to bring outlines of various projects.

Committee agreed to hold meetings monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of October.

## Exhibit A

### SUPPORT FOR DOG PARK:

*We move that the following statement be included in a letter to the City Council's Planning and Development Committee:*

The Open Space and Recreation Committee supports the proposed dog park as a place for dogs and their owners to socialize, as a means to reduce dog waste on city streets, and as a draw for dog-owning tourists to Gloucester, provided that:

- 1 - The dog park be funded through grants, user fees, private donations or other means and not from the City of Gloucester at a time when so many other worthy projects that require funding are before the City;
- 2 – An organization unaffiliated with city government such as a nonprofit be formed to manage all aspects of building the park from fund raising through construction and thereafter be in place to provide ongoing management and maintenance of the park; and
- 3 – A set of rules and regulations be written to govern use of the park.

It is the opinion of this committee that items 2 and 3 should be in place before the City commits exclusive use of any public land to this project.

### LOCATION:

*We move that the following statement be included in a letter to the City Council's Planning and Development Committee:*

The Open Space and Recreation Committee recommends for the proposed dog park the locations identified by the Department of Public Works as “Stage Fort Park #2” and “Stage Fort Park #3,” in the wooded area roughly between the Stage Fort Park main parking lot and the ends of Crowell Avenue and Beachmont Avenue. The area is close to downtown and the Boulevard, is large enough for the proposed park, provides ample year-round parking, and is separated by trees from nearby residences