

Lancaster Open Space & Recreation Committee Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 4:00 PM
Lancaster Town Hall

In attendance: Noreen Piazza, Tom Christopher, Shirley Griffin, David Koonce, Tim Castner

Minutes

Noreen Piazza circulated the minutes from the 11/9 meeting. No changes or corrections were noted.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – 2017

N. Piazza distributed a second draft of the OSRP outline and schedule. Chapter assignments were finalized, along with the request for assistance of MRPC with certain chapters as part of a grant from the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program. The schedule shows a kick-off in January 2017 and completion in July 2017 to coincide with submission of the Land Conservation Grant.

The outline and schedule were finalized (attached), as well as dates for sending out a survey and holding a public forum. The survey will be mailed out in the February/March timeframe, and the public forum will be held on Wednesday, 3/8, 7:00 PM, at the Senior Center.

The survey used from the last OSRP update will be mailed to the OSRC members to review and revise. N. Piazza will draft the public forum flyer to be posted on the Town's web site, in the Town newsletters, on the cable TV, and posted on the various community bulletin boards.

N. Piazza will send out the current OSRP chapters (in Word) for committee members to review and update according to their assignments.

It was decided that the OSRC will meet monthly during the time the OSRP update is being completed. The meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM at the Town Hall. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 2/22, at 4:00 PM.

Update – Parcel Transfers

It was agreed that we should move forward in transferring certain parcels in the Cook CA that are owned by the Town (BOS) over to the Conservation Commission. Six parcels have been identified (13-6, 13-10, 14-10, 14-14, 14-18, 18-65), and David Koonce agreed to prioritize which parcels could be placed on the May 2017 town meeting warrant.

It was also noted that Town-owned Parcel 10-13A (21 acres) on Old Union Turnpike has a deed restriction that has expired. The deed restriction needs to be lifted by a vote at Town Meeting. This should be scheduled at the May 2017 town meeting.

D. Koonce reported that the Conservation Commission received a Middlesex Conservation Partnership Land Transaction Grant in the amount of \$3,300 to cover the appraisal for the Dymet/Dolan parcel that the Town Forest is hoping to add to their inventory. The appraisal cost came in at \$2,200. There needs to be a warrant article drafted for transferring the appraisal funds from the Land Transaction Grant.

The ATM warrant deadline will be in early April.

Town Forest Update

Tim Castner, Chair of the Town Forest Committee, gave an update on the timber harvest at the Town Forest. The harvest was completed in December, and the landscape has changed a great deal as a result. There are now opportunities for more trails and trail connections, along with more space for board walks across wet parts of the trails.

Freedom's Way Update – Thoreau Trail

T. Castner reported on the Thoreau Trail project, with planning having started in preparation for the June 2017 event. The first major planning meeting will be held on 1/17, 6:00 PM, at the Walden Pond Visitor's Center in Concord. All are invited to participate.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OSRC will be held on 2/22. An agenda is forthcoming.