

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2023

Members Present: Marian Neutra (left meeting at 6:00), Kelly McClintock, Sam Nelson, Dave Killeen, Tom Trainor, and Nick Rodenhouse

Members absent: Nicole Wiemeyer

Guests: Zenya Wild, Chris Cooney, Bob Murchison

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the chair at 5:30.

Review of agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted, with the exception that Marian's presentation regarding the proposed water and sewer district would be taken up first.

Approval of minutes

Minutes of the meeting of May 2 were approved.

Proposed water/sewer district

Marian explained the proposal for a new North Sherborn water/sewer district and an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the city of Framingham. Toll Brothers is considering moving ahead with the two previously approved developments along the north of Coolidge Street but they need assurance that Sherborn will be able to connect with Framingham for MWRA water supply and sewer; this connection would be intended to service only the Toll Bros. developments, and the properties on Kendall Avenue next to Framingham that are already on MWRA water from Framingham. It will require an Inter-Municipal Agreement with Framingham, approvals by the MWRA, and special state legislation to create the district. An article authorizing the Select Board to submit the proposed legislation to the State will come before a Special Town Meeting in the Fall.

There are many issues still to be worked out and potential problems that may come up, but the SB hopes that an IMA can be agreed in principle with Framingham before the Fall Town Meeting, and that the OSC will support the legislation at the STM.

Pollinator Pathways

Sam introduced Chris Cooney who is promoting Sherborn as a Pollinator Pathways community.

Pollinator Pathways is a national movement with a growing number of towns joining and each individual property that is taking part being mapped. Nick is a strong and knowledgeable supporter, and he explained that to be effective participants have to go beyond cultivating particular flowering plants, herbs and shrubs, and to emphasize as well providing native flowering trees such as hawthorn, basswood, and buckeye, creating appropriate habitat year-round, and in corridors not just isolated fields.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted that OSC go on record as officially endorsing Pollinator Pathways and encouraging Sherborn participation.

Mountain Bike Skills Park

Nick has previously expressed concerns about fragile habitat in the area planned for the skills park, and Dave reported that he and Nick are scheduling a walk in the area soon to view and discuss the situation.

Updating the OSRP, procedure and participation

Kelly reported that a potential volunteer, Kevin Stephenson, had contacted him from the trails survey form, and that Kevin had also contacted Nicole. Kelly also recently made a presentation to the ConComm explaining the situation and requesting interested members to join in updating the Plan, and that two members, Steve Scrimshaw and Matt Oleyer, agreed. Sam also reported that a member of the Agriculture Committee, Grisha Maziya, had contacted him to offer his help.

It was agreed that Kelly would get back to Kevin, Steve, and Matt, and Sam would get back to Grisha, requesting that they take a close look at the present OSRP, and in particular the sections covering their interests, get familiar with the relevant goals and recommendations, and consider how they might adjust and update the sections and recommendations; they all would be invited to join the next OSC meeting at 5:00 on 7/10 when OSC will consider in more detail a work plan and timeline for revising the Plan.

Tom explained that the process for revising the Plan would be easier with setting up an OSC folder of files from the 2018 OSRP on a SharePoint remote drive on the town's server, and that he would ask the town's IT resource, Klaus Ullmann, to set one up.

Each of these volunteers will be asked if they have a hard copy of the Plan, and if not, Tom offered to hand deliver a copy to them.

New OSC membership

Sam reported that we have one vacancy now to fill, and that he thought Grisha Maziya would be an excellent candidate. Grisha will be invited to the next meeting in any event, and it was agreed that we would focus then on OSRP workplan and volunteer participation and consider inviting Grisha to join the OSC later.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Monday July 10 at 5:00 PM

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly McClintock