

Town of Eastham
Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2014

Members Present:

Robert Gurney, chair, Peter Wade, Robert Cook, Steven Gulrich, Robert Jacovino, Stephen Smith, Richard Hilmer, Karen Baker

Meeting commenced at 7:03 PM

1. Minutes were read (peter wade) and accepted
2. Mr. Hilmer reported that the memorial bench policy will be tabled until next month's meeting...he will email said proposed policy to the members
3. Mr Hilmer was requested by Nan Balmer, asst town administrator, to provide a short presentation of the newly revised open space document at the BOS meeting on Monday, March 3, 2014. this newly completed document will be making its way around the town depts, having been on the website for public comments since last month...
4. Mr Cook noted that it is a condition of the State to perform this update to be eligible to apply for open space land acquisition grant funding.
5. Mr Cook, and Mr Wade reported on their meeting with Neil Andres, supt of public works regarding the proposed planting at Wiley Park...a drawing of said planting was distributed for discussion purposes...Mr Smith noted that Mr Andres, and a member from the 1651 Committee had presented their proposal at the previous evening's conservation committee meeting...both the cons com, and Mr. Cook and Mr. Wade apparently did not have any large issues with the scope of the planting and the proposed plant choices, with a few minor changes, for example change rudbeckia to heather... however there were many questions; maintainance higher than existing native vegetation. Ms. Baker wondered who will be doing the watering and who is doing the installation. There will be interpretive signage and Mr. Cook would like the OSC to be part of it. The open space committees role in managing public areas such as Wiley Park was brought up and discussed. Mr. Gulrich noted that there is a flow chart showing the chain of command that he received as part of the 1651 committee and he will email a copy to the members. Ms. Baker proposed the ideas of talks on native plantings.
6. Mr. Wade reported that he has spoken to Henry Lind and Mark Robinson to ask about their availability to come to a future meeting to talk about land acquisition.
7. Mr. Gurney and Ms. Baker attended the kick off between the conservation trust and the National Seashore "Living lightly on the land" to educate land owners in and around the National Seashore about programs available to protect their lands in perpetuity thereby preserving the special qualities of the lower cape.

New Business; Mr. Wade discussed the property off of Dyer Prince Rd. which has come up for sale. It is currently under chapter 61 and as such the town has right of first refusal. The Community Preservation Committee is proposing purchase of the property for conservation using CPA funds, possibly spreading the cost over several years. There was discussion about several issues; A) where the expanded parking would be located B) Mr. Cook would like to see the

uplands as undisturbed as possible. There was discussion about the property and the Chapter 61 properties in general. The Fellers property also under Chapter 61 was mentioned C) the purchase of the property will be on the 2014 town meeting Warrant and it was suggested that everyone tell towns people about it and stand up at town meeting to ask for support. Note: Endorse the project when we get more details!

Mr. Wade reported on a new initiative at the CPA a consultant Jennifer Goldson has been secured to work on a new community preservation plan. There will be a workshop on March 26th from 6-9 pm to “develop priorities for future CPA projects 2015-2019. The plan will encompass open space, recreation historic resources and affordable housing. When complete this plan will be “guiding light for CPC”

Mr. Cook sent an email to members from the Trust for Public Lands reporting about a study which found that for every dollar spent on open space there are 4 dollars of benefits and that open space contributes to a high quality of life

Mr. Hilmer suggested coming up with a tactical strategy for land purchases beginning at next months meeting.

Next meeting is on March 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55

Respectfully submitted by Karen Baker