

Open Space Committee  
Town of Eastham  
Minutes  
June 18, 2014

Members Present: Bob Gurney (chair), Peter Wade, Bob Cook, Steve Gulrich  
Staff Present: Dick Hilmer

Meeting called to order at 7:28 PM

1. Minutes of May 28, 2014 Meeting. RevMinutes were not available to review or approve.
2. Sandy Meadows
  - A. Committee Chair Bob Gurney reported that 12 people attended the Sandy Meadows Wildflower Walk held on Saturday June 7, 2014.
  - B. Dick Hilmer reported that he expects that the bid package for the Sandy Meadows Trail Improvement Project should be ready for release in the next 10 days. Mark Powers of the Recreation department will serve as Project Manager.
  - C. The committee also noted newspaper reports that boundary encroachments at Sandy Meadows have been removed
3. Open Space and Recreation Plan – Dick Hilmer reported that this report was officially submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and is currently under review.
4. Old Business
  - A. Steve Gulrich provided an update on the activities of the Forest Advisory Committee and pointed out that because this was his last meeting as a member of the Open Space committee, someone else from the Open Space Committee would need to take his place on the Forest Advisory Committee.
  - B. Committee members thanked Steve Gulrich for all his service to the Town of Eastham on the Open space Committee.
  - C. Dick Hilmer reported on the Wiley Park Entrance Project that was implemented by Town DPW. The plantings are in but are being watered until they are established. The entrance sign has been erected and the educational sign stills need to go in.
  - D. Dick Hilmer reported that the presentation to the Board of Selectmen on applying for state funds to help purchase "Turtle Cove" resulted in a vote of support from both the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission. "Turtle Cove" is a parcel of land that provides an important nesting site for the MA Threatened Diamond-backed Terrapin, which lives in the salt marshes along Cape Cod Bay. The application was sent to the state requesting a matching grant to help purchase this land and place it into a conservation

restriction. Because CPA funds are already heavily committed, additional funds to match those from the state will need to be raised by private conservation groups.

E. The Committee decided to pass on its prior resolution regarding Memorial Benches in town-owned open space and natural areas to the board of selectmen. That resolution, passed at the open space committee meeting of April 23 2014 read "The open space committee proposes a recommendation that no additional memorial benches be placed within Town-owned open space natural areas." Bob Gurney will communicate this recommendation to the Board of Selectman via an e-mail to the Town Administrator.

F. There was further discussion of the proposal by Mr. Charles Harris for trail alterations on the Glacial Ponds Trail immediately north of Samoset Road. Open Space Committee members do not support the original proposal to install granite steps on the trail. A number of other ideas have been discussed, including whether any alterations are needed in the first place. The extent to which any other proposal may or may not be supported would depend on the details of the proposal. The committee understands that Mr. Harris may be speaking with the Conservation Commission and the DPW regarding his ideas. In the event that a specific proposal results from those meetings, the Open Space Committee will then provide its comments and recommendations as to whether it supports it or not.

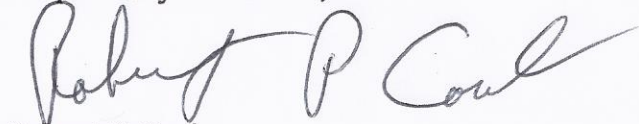
#### 5. New Business

A. Peter Wade (Open Space Committee representative to CPA Committee) provided further explanation as to how and why open space funds within the CPA Accounts are heavily committed at present.

B. The Committee discussed the idea of inspecting the newly acquired Open Space property at the west end of Dyer Prince Road to look at options for increasing parking capacity there in a way that has the least impact on the property's natural values. Based on the discussion, the committee agreed to hold its next meeting at this site.

Next meeting: July 23, 2014 at west end of Dyer Prince Road  
Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert P. Cook".

Robert P. Cook