

MINUTES

OPEN SPACE MEETING MAY 28, 2014

Members present:

Bob Gurney

Bob Cook

Dick Hilmer

Steve Gulrich

Karen Baker

Missing:

Steve Smith

Also Present:

Bill Allen, Massachusetts Audubon

Henry Lind, representing Eastham Conservation Foundation & Compact of Conservation Trusts

Charles Harris, Eastham Resident

- Bill Allen from Mass Audubon had prepared a presentation describing a piece of land which has recently been offered for sale to the town to be used as an important conservation tool, a turtle habitat called a “turtle garden.”
- This area was created in 2006 with the encouragement of the landowner, who is recently deceased.
- There are 2 lots on the Herring River Marsh which provide upland nesting habitat for Salt Marsh turtles, a state-listed threatened species, which only live in salt marshes.
- Other nesting areas include the barrier beaches, which, with continued climate change, may not be available for future nesting.
- Since inception, this “turtle garden” has been associated with a significant increase in nesting population. Since 2003, 3,000 hatchlings have been released.
- Summary of this site:
 1. Provides optimal nesting habitat.
 2. Has the highest productivity of any site on the cape (90%)
 3. Keeps turtles off the road, which is one of the greatest reasons for their extirpation.
 4. Must be maintained: kept open, sandy & sunny

- Dick Hilmer reported on grant monies available through the state.
 1. Eastham Conservation Trust and Compact for Conservation Trusts preparing grant application due June 18, 2014.
 2. Grant needs a signature from Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission.
 3. Grant would have to be presented at town meeting.
 4. Steve Gulrich made motion to support this effort, seconded by Bob Cook, passed unanimously.
- Dick Hilmer reviewed ownership process:
 1. Proposal to town administrator.
 2. Grant application submitted by June 18, 2014.
 3. Town of Eastham will own property.
 4. A perpetual conservation restriction will be held by Mass Audubon.
 5. Attempting to present at BOS meeting June 4, 2014.
 6. Applying for \$400,000 grant. Still have to raise \$ 300-350,000 more.
- Last month's minutes accepted and approved.
- Samoset Stairs: Consensus to have DPW review.
- Sandy Meadow Project: BOS accepted Scope of Work and Proposal has been sent out to bid.
- Wiley Park: Project is completed, interpretive sign is ordered
- Community Preservation Plan: draft has been posted on Town Website asking for public comments
- Question on Plant Listings for Invasive Species discussed.
- Next meeting June 18, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Baker