

Open Space Committee
Town of Eastham
Minutes, Town Hall, April 23, 2014

Members Present: Bob Gurney (chair), Karen Baker, Peter Wade, Bob Cook, Steve Smith, Steve Gulrich

Members absent: Bob Jacovino

Staff Present: Dick Hilmer Others Present: Charles Harris

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

1. Minutes of the March 19th meeting were accepted with minor corrections and unanimously approved.
2. Samoset Stairs: Mr. Harris presented his idea for a sloping stair section to improve safety and ease of passage across Samoset Rd. from the Nickerson Property to Cottontail Acres. He proposed using reclaimed flat curbing stones for treads to extend down the trail on the north side of Samoset Rd. After the Committee discussed several options for a possible stairway and also the necessity for such a project, it was decided that the members would visit the site individually for a return to the discussion at the next meeting.
3. Memorial Bench Policy: Discussion revealed a general assessment that the Committee felt there were adequate memorial benches within Eastham's Open Space areas. A vote was passed 5-0 (one abstention) on the following recommendation to be passed on to the Board of Selectmen by Bob Gurney: "The Open Space Committee proposes a recommendation that no additional memorial benches be placed within Town open space natural areas."
4. Sandy Meadows: Bob Cook was thanked for his recent wildlife observations in Wiley Park which included American woodcock and a field sparrow, both birds listed as "Species in Greatest Need of Conservation" ("SWAP" species in BioMap2). Dick Hilmer reported that he approached the Town for information regarding bids for the Sandy Meadows trail modification and was advised that at this time the Administration was pretty occupied with the town meeting. Dick suggested we wait a few weeks to reinvestigate the issue. In the meantime, he, Bob Cook and Karen Baker flagged a path entry from a three-car parking area. Karen reported that a resident near Sandy Meadows had observed nighttime use of an ATV on the property by a teenager with an adult nearby on more than one occasion. Dick said he would follow up on this report with Karen. Bob Cook offered to conduct another walk in Sandy Meadows, focusing on spring wildflowers. He will come up with a flyer and Bob Gurney offered assistance with a newspaper notice. Bob Cook also proposed an idea for a Volunteer Workforce to assist in invasive control. The Committee decided to put this issue off for future discussion.

5. Open Space and Recreation Report: Dick Hilmer reported that the Committee has received favorable review letters from the Board of Health, Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission. We are waiting for responses from the Planning Board and BOS. In addition, the Committee has been reviewing the appreciated comments/corrections submitted by Adele Blong of the Water Management Committee, many of which have already been incorporated into the report. Dick will take Committee observations regarding the corrections and incorporate them into the document.

6. Old Business:

- Wiley Park Entrance: Dick reported that Brewster Mill has donated two natural wood planks to be used for signage. Bob Gurney noted that one will be educational, the other will mark the entrance.
- 1651: The Friend's spring planting will be 10 Bayberry and 10 Beach Plum in early May.
- Harris Property: The Committee reviewed the wording for Harris Property purchase article on the warrant for Town Meeting.

7. New Business:

- New Fence in Nickerson: Dick showed photo of natural fence placed in Nickerson Park to delineate boundary to Mumford property
- The possible development of the Tee Time Property was discussed and may be taking shape.
- Peter Wade brought an outline report resulting from the CPC March workshop listing "Preliminary Ideas for Guiding Principals and Goals" prepared by consultants Goldson and Rust. He asked that the Committee review the listed "Open Space Goals" and offer him suggestions that might better describe our objectives. This prompted a discussion and Dick proposed that the Committee look again at organizing our goals and formulating a mission statement in an effort toward becoming more proactive in acquiring properties for Town open space. A thread will be passed around to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Using CPA Funds: Peter brought a flyer describing how towns can make use of CPA funds for housing trusts and conservation funds. He offered to investigate setting up a Trust or Fund and report next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35

Next meeting May 28

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Gulrich
Acting Clerk