

Lancaster Open Space & Recreation Committee Minutes
Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 4:00 PM
Lancaster Town Hall

In attendance: Noreen Piazza, Tom Christopher, Ted Manning, Tim Castner, David Koonce, Christa Duprey

Minutes

Noreen Piazza circulated the minutes from the 2/22 meeting. No changes or corrections were noted.

Update – Open Space and Recreation Plan – 2017

Public Forum

The public forum was held on Wednesday, 3/8, with about 20 people in attendance. N. Piazza kicked off the forum with a presentation that covered the following topics:

- OSRC mission and goals
- 2009-2016 plan implementation
- 2017-2024 plan update
- Break-out groups and reporting
- Wrap-up and next steps

On the 2009-2016 implementation, the following Recreational accomplishments were highlighted:

- Creation of a Recreation Department with greatly expanded recreational programs
- Opening of the handicap-accessible Community and Senior Centers with greatly expanded programming for all ages
- Kick-off of the Nathaniel Thayer Memorial Park project
- Formation of the Lancaster Trail & Bikeway Coalition
- Construction of new facilities – outdoor ice rink, pump track

The following Open Space and Natural Resources accomplishments were highlighted:

- Formation of the Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River with renewed interest in protection, maintenance and promotion of the river
- Large expansion of the Town Forest
- New Town Forest management plan and timber harvest
- Active parcel protection program
- Receipt of 10 acres of open space in gifts to the Conservation Commission
- New Green Belt Vision Plan – a long-range plan for creating a connected corridor for conservation and recreation
- Removal of Bartlett Pond dam with return of a cold-water fishery
- Creation of a Conservation Trust Fund as a source for land protection and acquisition

This was followed by a discussion on three main topic areas:

- Open Space and Natural Resources
- Recreation Resources
- Senior Resources

The results of these discussions are attached and will also be incorporated into the 2017-2024 plan update.

The committee determined that there will be no need for a second public forum.

Survey

N. Piazza distributed a third draft of the OSRP survey and members present gave their final comments. The surveys will be mailed out to every household by the end of March with a return date of 4/28.

Chapter Updates

Chapters 1 and 2 – second drafts were handed out with all edits-to-date incorporated.

Chapter 3 – was circulated for review. N. Piazza has started an update and will work with MRPC on specific sub-sections.

Chapter 4 – was circulated for review. Major edits were made by Tom Christopher, Cara Sanford and David Koonce.

Chapter 5 – was circulated for review. Major edits were made by David Koonce.

For the 4/26 OSRC, there will be another group review of Chapters 3, 4 and 5, as well as a new update of Chapter 6.

Update – Parcel Transfers

Town Forest

Parcels 33-82 and 33-82A (former Hawkins parcels) will be transferred from BOS ownership to Conservation Commission ownership for May ATM. D. Koonce has drafted the warrant article, and will submit by the 4/3 deadline.

Tim Castner and D. Koonce will also be attending the next Finance Committee and BOS meetings to discuss the warrant article for the transfer of the appraisal funds for the Dymont/Dolan parcels from the LAND Grant.

Cook CA

Parcels 14-18 and 18-65 will also be transferred from the BOS to the Conservation Commission. D. Koonce has drafted the warrant article, and will submit by the 4/3 deadline.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OSRC will be held on 4/26. An agenda is forthcoming.