

Meeting Minutes Thursday February 27, 2014

CITY OF GLOUCESTER

Open Space and Recreation Committee

3 Pond Road, Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel 978-281-9781 (c/o the Community Development Department)

attending members: Steve Winslow, John McElhenny, Heidi Wakeman, Patti Amaral, Susan Hedman, Charlie Crowley, Noel Mann, Jerome Goulart

guest: David Santomenna representative from Greenbelt

Meeting begins 7:10 pm and the group reviewed minutes from previous meeting, and the minutes were accepted.

Charlie Crowley is willing to be the open space liaison to the CPA for one more year.

Consolidation of Parks and Recreation Committee into Open Space and Recreation Committee:
There is no change in status.

Greenbelt-Annisquam Woods: David Santomenna was invited to speak about his reasons for visiting the meeting. He informed the committee about a proposed land acquisition in Gloucester, The Annisquam Woods. This would be a joint project with the City of Gloucester and Greenbelt, where the city buys the conservation restriction, but Greenbelt does land management. This 30 acre parcel is already permitted for cluster development of 27 units by Summer House Associates. Greenbelt has negotiated an agreement in principal to purchase most of the property for the price of \$800,000 with 4 lots left to be developed off Hutchinson Ct. This price is considered to be below market value. The current agreement with Greenbelt allows them through April 2015 to complete the transaction. The Greenbelt is looking for funding for this project and hoped to be able to work with the City of Gloucester through the grants process. There is a Local Acquisition State Grant that the city can apply for. With this grant the city would have to commit the money and hope for the grant be approved and then get the money refunded. There is also the CPA and this project would be eligible for CPA grant money. David Santomenna was looking for support from the OSRC. The committee found the project to be consistent with the goals of the OSRC, but also wanted to know what other grant projects would come to the CPA in this years grant cycle before fully endorsing this Greenbelt project. Basically, the OSRC wants to know about all grant applications before endorsing any one proposal. There was also a question of whether the grant application for CPA should come through the Conservation Commission, rather than OSRC.

A motion was made to authorize the Chairman John McElhenney to submit an application to the CPA for the Conservation Restriction in the Greenbelt Annisquam Woods project, if the Conservation Commission does not do this. Heidi seconded the motion, The vote was unanimously in favor of this motion. This was in part due to calendar deadlines that would occur before our next meeting, such that there would not be sufficient time to bring the issue back to the OSRC and still apply for the CPA grant.

Charlie Crowley also spoke at about the CPA and bonding issues. He is concerned that too much of the annual grant budget can get consumed by long term bonded projects. This leaves the CPA with less flexibility when funds are already committed.

Stephen Winslow Status: State government will likely have his position funded for fiscal 2014. After that the city may want to hire him to keep progress moving on projects.

New Way Lane / MT. Ann Access: Bill Fonvielle, the newly elected Ward 5 Counselor has been made aware of the difficulties with access to Mount Ann through New Way Lane and is going to do some research into this.

Bike Lanes : This needs to be added as budget item in the city's budget. This needs to go through the Mayor Kirk and the committee hopes to reach out to recommend refunding of bike lane markings.

CATS Boardwalk: This is going through the Conservation Commission, but the neighbors are fighting against it due to fears of increased quarry access. The construction of this boardwalk will protect fragile environment. It was also noted that there has always been access for city residents at this location, so the boardwalk really should not change that.

A motion was made to support the CATS Plum Cove Boardwalk as it is consistent with OSRC goals of protecting habitat and increased access. Seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor of this motion.

Owner Unknown parcel: John Dunn ,City treasurer is to make a request for title research regarding lot 164 in N. Gloucester Woods.

Burnhams Field: construction bidding has occurred and the city needs to select the low bidder .
\$ 122,000 added

Our Common Back Yard Grants : This may be a program to use at the Oval or Burnhams.

Mattos Field: Lighting of Mattos field continues to be problematic as the placement of light fixtures needs to be broached from a geotechnical view. It was suggested that a grant of \$10,000 for a design study regarding the lighting at Mattos be pursued as an initial grant. That will give a more concrete estimate of the entire cost of this project.

Meeting adjourned 9pm.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Susan Hedman