

DOVER OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Meeting Held via Zoom

Members in Attendance: Amey Moot (Chair), Boynton Glidden, Paul Wood, Greg Kahoun, Henry Faulkner, Tara Nolan, Valerie Lin, Mark Adamczyk, Justine Kent-Uritam, Fred Hartman as well as liaison John Jeffries (BOS)

Absent: Tim Holiner and liaison Jerry Arnold (LRP)

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

- I. **Minutes:** The minutes of February 18, 2020 were approved unanimously.

- II. **Discussion of ROFR for 61A Property on Dedham Street**

The Committee reviewed the maps and supporting documents that Amey had distributed regarding the three lots that are being sold by the Brodie family on Dedham Street. While one parcel would provide upland access to Town property, given the expected cost and the fact that DLCT has determined it is not interested in acquisition, the Committee felt we should indicate to the Selectmen that OSC does not recommend acquiring the parcel(s). On a motion by Justine, it was unanimously voted to have Amey draft a brief letter indicating the above opinion of the OSC.

- III. **Board Updates:**
 1. Open Space Committee:
 - a. Public Walks: Public Walks are being postponed until at least May 5th because of COVID. Incremental delays will be based on State and local Health Departments' guidance.
 - b. Mapping Project: Greg's current efforts are focused on "future-proofing" working off last year's data.
 - c. Trustees of Reservations: In response to COVID, TTOR has roped off parking areas and indicated that reservations are closed. The hope is to re-open properties that are not staffed relatively soon. There was discussion about the local problem of cars parked on Dedham and Powisset Streets as well as Caryl Park parking lots and the associated issues with traffic and crowding.
 - d. Dover Land Conservation Trust: Henry Faulkner is the DLCT representative on the Hale ad hoc committee.
 - i. Dover Church parcel – Justine reported that there have been discussions between the parties but there remains a difference of opinion regarding the number of viable developable lots on the parcel. This difference has prevented the parties from coming to agreement on value. They continue to gather data to better inform all involved and refine valuations. Neither BOH nor DLCT had any updates regarding this land.
 - ii. BOH had originally told DLCT to close all properties but after DLCT outreach the BOH agreed they could keep properties open so people can enjoy open spaces but post signage about health precautions.
 - iii. DLCT noted that Sherborn Forest and Trails people are hoping to re-route a portion of the Bay Circuit to avoid/limit how much they use Route 27, Bridge

DOVER OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Meeting Held via Zoom

Street and Farm Street. They are looking at going through the Porter Property and Smith street as well as private land at the end of Smith Street. That has not been worked out or agreed upon by the various parties.

- e. Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust: Justine noted that the reservations are getting a lot of use during the pandemic and are open for people to enjoy but all events have been cancelled to manage health concerns. She also noted the issues UCCLT is having a turn around and the organization is now being mandated to replace the dead tree with a costly living tree.
 - f. Hale Reservation: Hale reservation is “open-ish.” Although, programs and much activity on hold because of COVID. It was noted that mountain bikes are acceptable at Hale and the trails are in good shape. The Warrant Article requesting funding for a valuation has been removed because the Selectmen identified another resource that could be used without slowing and thereby jeopardizing the process.
 - g. Norfolk Hunt Club: Clean-up dates have been cancelled, as have spring hunts. Events and most barn access is on hold because of COVID. They hope to move the date of the gala to June 27th or possibly September 12th as an alternate.
2. Board of Health:
- a. There was discussion about the increased amount of ticks this year presumably because the lowest temperature was about 11 degrees above normal which prevented the normal winter die-off. It has also been a particularly wet spring so above normal mosquito populations are also expected.
 - b. Water Committee: Work has slowed given the focus on COVID. The Kleinfelder meeting has not yet happened.
3. Conservation Commission
- There was further discussion about Dover Con Comm expanding the setbacks to better protect wetlands. It was noted that Dover structure setbacks are less aggressive than a number of other towns. Also, there was general discussion and concern expressed by OSC about the tremendous amount of cutting at 105 Centre Street. This led to a conversation about the balance between property owner’s rights and concern about the environmental impact of significant clear cutting.
4. Planning Board
- The Planning Board has not had a meeting in over a month. Henry noted that Sherborn is putting an article on its Warrant that has a standard design which includes an open space requirement and other designed would be approved only by exception. The Committee considered that that was an appealing approach.
5. Board of Selectmen
- BOS expects to postpone Town Meeting to June, it may need to move again depending on COVID developments. Town Elections will also be moved. John noted that Dover is arguably in the best shape of any nearby town because of its \$13 million surplus. Most other towns are deeply concerned about fiscal impacts of the pandemic. In response to COVID,

DOVER OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Meeting Held via Zoom

Dover has done outreach and identified 116 people in need of assistance. The volunteerism in town results in a 3:1 ratio of volunteers to people in need. There was discussion about the services that other towns are providing and suggestions were made about incremental actions Dover might undertake.

The next meeting is May 5th. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm