

DOVER OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES: TUESDAY JANUARY 3, 2023
VIA ZOOM 7:30 P.M.

Attendees: Amey Moot (Chair, OSC), Henry Faulkner, Connie Sullivan, Greg Kahoun, Val Lin, Tara Nolan, Carol Lisbon (Planning Board), Christy Violin (Conservation Commission), Justine Kent-Uritam, Mark Adamczyk, John Jeffries (Liaison, Board of Selectmen), Jerry Arnold (Liaison, Long Range Planning).

Absent: Boynton Glidden

I. Minutes

On a motion made and seconded the minutes of the December 6, 2022 meeting were unanimously adopted and approved.

II. Hale Update

There was general discussion about the Hale project and the challenges and opportunities for raising awareness and building support. Several Committee members noted that most people they talk with know nothing or almost nothing about Hale in general, or about the land being available or about the upcoming efforts to conserve it. Amey noted the link at the end of the agenda where people can sign up for mailings and get information. Carol suggested using a town email blast to people, and looking at other ways to reach a wide audience. It was noted that Felicia could provide information about sending a blast email. Other ideas included signs on Powisett Street and at the transfer station. Also, OSC could consider organizing the Saturday Strolls to go into and adjacent to Hale so that people can get a sense of how that property is integrated with other open and/or protected properties.

There was discussion about the need to reach out to people that have objections to both better understand those concerns and also help assuage them, if possible. Justine noted that the key issues will be cost, monitoring and educating people about CRs. Mark noted that people need to be informed about why they should care. The Town needs to have clear information about tax revenue from development vs. cost of purchase of Hale, as well as whether this project alleviate or impede municipal needs (e.g. Dover expanding transfer station, Westwood municipal garage.)

John Jeffries indicated that the task force has been doing outreach. The Committee questioned whether the Town needs to have a “Plan B” regarding what to do if the Article fails. John mentioned that the challenges on the Dover side are magnified because the Town currently has 6 of 14 full time positions open. So staffing initiatives in general is difficult at the moment. There is a meeting between Hale and the Town Administrators on 1/10. Dover’s Interim Town Administrator and Interim Town Finance Manager will both be there.

III. Updates from Relevant Boards:

- Planning Board has decided not to move forward with the trail easement bylaw at this time. They are focusing on ADU, Village Center, rezoning of floodplain and Tree Preservation initiatives.
- Conservation Commission will be holding a working walk on 1/7 in Wylde Woods to review the state of trails and talk with Janet about what can be done to improve them. They will also be considering signs noting that motorized vehicles are prohibited. Red Robin has been approved through the Con Comm process having addressed parking, septic and vernal pool issues. The

development has approximately 32 units all of which are rentals and will count toward the affordable housing available in town.

- Selectmen are needing some consulting support with hiring to fill staff positions.
- Park and Recreation has had a tough time getting winter sports underway because of the weather.
- DLCT had nothing new to report at this time; they have a meeting next week.
- Upper Charles is continuing to pursue shares of the Wardner Farm Trust.
- Saturday Strolls – We are hoping to schedule Paul McManus to again take people to vernal pools either 4/1 or 4/8, perhaps at Boynton’s.

IX. Other

The following upcoming events were noted:

- Audubon has an Owl Prowl next weekend. River otter is visible mornings off the boardwalk.
- Conserve Hale Coffees – Wednesdays, January 11th & 25th & February 8th at 7:30 - 8:30 am at Hale. <https://hale1918.org/cr> - please encourage friends to go!
- Fire Pit Saturdays at Powisset Farm – starting January 14th noon - 2 pm & 3 - 5 pm
- Adult Cooking Classes at Powisset Farm – Thursdays starting January 12th 6 - 8 pm
- Soup, Stars & Snowshoes Hike – Powisset Farm – Friday, January 27th 5 - 7 pm
- Valentine Dinner – Powisset Farm – February 10th, 11th & 14th from 6 – 8 pm
- Hale Vacation Days (kids age 4 – 12) – Hale – February 21st – 23rd 9 am – 3 pm

The next meeting is February 7th at 7:30 via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara L. Nolan