

Dover Open Space Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 5th, 2021

Via Zoom

Attendees: Amey Moot, Tim Holiner (Conservation Commission), Justine Kent-Uritam, Greg Kahoun, Val Lin, Tara Nolan, Connie Sullivan, Mark Adamczyk, Fred Hartman, Boynton Glidden, Carol Lisbon (Planning Board), John Jeffries (liaison from BOS), Henry Faulkner (guest)

Absent: Jerry Arnold (liaison from LRP)

1. On a motion by Justine the minutes of 12/5/2020 were unanimously approved.
2. Open Space Plan:
 - a. There was discussion about various sections sent to members prior to the meeting, including the Community Vision. Issues discussed included:
 - i. Adding references and tie-in to climate change and resiliency;
 - ii. Clarifying that “open space” includes and in fact predominantly is composed of forested lands, as well as noting the import of preserving forested lands. It was noted that “Open Space” is a statutory reference rather than a descriptive title;
 - iii. Include protection of the flow rate on the Charles River;
 - iv. Include references to recreation resources that are proximate but not in Dover (e.g. Kingsbury Club, BSC, YMCA etc.)
 - b. Members were asked to provide comments, with a particular focus on the Action Plan, to Amey no later than January 26th so that she can consolidate them and update the draft.
 - c. Other topics discussed within this context were the importance of protecting lots from excessive tree cutting. A number of towns such as Wellesley have restrictions that protect this resource. There was also discussion about establishing limits on how much water can be pumped from both public and private wells as the Town considers how to manage and protect this vital resource.
3. Lead by Boynton Glidden, several Board members commented on the longstanding significant contributions of David Lewis to the Town of Dover. There was discussion about various ways to note his passing and recognize his commitment and efforts. As a first step the OSC hopes to update its Town Report submission to reflect this, if there is still time to refine the text which has already been submitted.
4. Hale Reservation:
 - a. Selectman John Jeffries indicated that lines of communication are open. Over the holidays there was no specific progress but a report is expected Thursday night. The overall value of the parcel and its unique qualities were discussed. John also noted that in the past year or so Hale’s financial situation has become very challenging. Accordingly it is likely that they will want any purchase to move swiftly and not spend years refining a deal.
 - b. Amey Moot noted that Hale is hosting youth vacation programs.
5. DLCT: The possible purchase of the parcel from the Dover Church remains an open possibility. The church has its annual meeting in late January. However, Mark noted that there is an absence of facts regarding the development potential which remains a barrier to reaching

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agreement on value and moving forward. Boynton pointed out the proximity of the church parcel to the 37 acres that he recently conserved, as well as other conserved parcels. In addition, DLCT is moving forward on some other CRs in town.

6. Audubon: Mark said that Audubon is seeking a new VP of Development and the new President is injecting a lot of energy into the organization. McKinsey is donating some time doing work for the organization. Audubon expects to undertake a diligent effort to expand membership in general with a particular focus on expanding its membership demographics. In addition, Audubon plans to thematically emphasize open space, climate change and wildlife corridors.
7. Water Resources: Carol Lisbon noted the significant breadth work and data gathering that has been accomplished by the Water Study Committee and the challenge facing the group is to now find a way to do something actionable with all that has been learned. The Committee hopes to find a way to help inform regulating not just educating. The goal would be to put something together before summer. John Jeffries commented that efforts need to be made to limit demand.

Many OSC members expressed concern about water as a resource, over-withdrawal issues with Colonial, and finding ways to protect water supply. It was noted that the State needs to step up and DEP should be required to do its job and enforce limits. John said the Town needs a broad multi-layer approach to address water issues which should include enforcement provisions and also cover private wells. He said the Colonial contract is being finalized on Thursday.

Justine discussed the work of the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force. She and Gerry Clarke frequently attend. She will send a link to meeting in case OSC members want to join via Zoom.

8. Other Updates:
 - a. John Jeffries told the OSC that a NOI to file a permit for a property on Route 109 has been received. The development is expected to be a 40B multi-family complex located at 61 and 63 County Street.
 - b. The Warrant closes next week. John said the Selectmen anticipate a need for two town meetings. The logistics for managing Town Meeting through COVID are challenging and still being worked out with regard to the scope of the meeting, the setting and so forth.
 - c. Many committee and Boards are looking forward to the new Land Use Director coming on board. Several references were made to the need for her services.
 - d. The Conservation Commission held an open hearing regarding regulations on 12/9. Without objection they expanded the various buffer and no-touch areas and, in keeping with surrounding towns, included a fine structure for violations. In answer to a question from Fred it was noted that exceptions are generally provided to people that need to replace pre-existing septic systems.
 - e. The Planning Board has submitted its revised Auxiliary Dwelling Unit bylaw for a 2021 Town Meeting. The Board is working to identify and prioritize efforts where they

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- need support from the new town planner. With regard to 40B developments the ZBA is looking at a comprehensive permit process wherein other Boards can provide input.
- f. Park and Recreation was involved in working with residents to expand the winter display in the center of town to include a menorah and better reflect the community. Lighting is being pursued for the tennis courts and the recreation trail is somewhat on hold as proponents are involved with other issues.

The next meeting will be on February 2nd. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Tara L. Nolan