

Dover Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021

Attendees (via Zoom): Amey Moot (Chair), Mark Adamczyk, Boynton Glidden, Tim Holiner (Conservation Commission), John Jeffries (Liaison, Board of Selectmen), Greg Kahoun, Justine Kent-Uritam, Val Lin, Carol Lisbon (Planning Board), Connie Sullivan

Absent: Tara Nolan, Gerry Arnold (Liaison, Long Range Planning)

Guests (via Zoom): Henry Faulkner, Courtney Starling (Dover Land Use Director)

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes of 1/5/2021 were unanimously approved.

Introduction/welcome to Courtney Starling, Dover's new Land Use Director

Open Space and Recreation Plan reviewed: Sections 2-5 largely complete, including extensive double checking and reordering of the table of all conservation lands. Additions include recent acquisitions by OSC, DLTC and Trustees since prior report. Further discussed were:

- Community Vision Statement
- Expanding goals to include climate change, water quality
- Adding language to protect flow rate of Charles River and its tributaries vs. over-pumping of ground water supplies
- Broadening the development/management plans for Open Spaces
- Opportunities to expand accessibility
- Broadening existing Ag Lands / CSA goal to support encouraging and protecting local agriculture, increase public awareness, address invasive plants, minimize watering and add ecology to recreation focus.

Section 7: Amey will forward / invite committee members' offline input/edit.

Board Updates:

Public Walks: 2020 scheduled walks sporadic and shifting to 2021 due to Covid-19. New walks done included Blake, Nimrod Rock in Hale from Powisset Farm.

- Walks were limited to 10 participants, good social distancing and mask compliance to date.
- Discussed use of social media, Go-Pro videotaping, and mapping apps *i.e.*, Strava and GoTrustees for education, trail familiarization. Dover's new website table linking walkable properties to web pages could host trail videos, and real-time GPS use on trails.
- Discussion re BOS and new owner of previously abandoned property abutting trails, signage, safety issues re property usage and trail users, easement tracking.
- Courtney Starling to address town counsel re tracking easements as priority.

Mapping Project: Reviewed current discussions with DLCT to reroute a trail segment crossing portion of a private property and requests by homeowner to post new signage. Existing NHC old maps clearly mark the trails as long in existence. Increasing incidents of this and other owners upset with use of trails on private property from escalated trail use due to Covid-19.

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- Land also bordered by DLTC land; segment short, easy to reroute. Other trails traverse property including easement for flood control
- Looking to resolve amicably, access other land/add new trails while bypassing McKoy-Lesser property.
- Looking at remarking/recreating trails and giving identifiable names vs. only GPS point.
- Discussed Dover rules, or lack thereof, re noise control, gun and ATV use.

The Trustees of Reservations:

- Discussed the sad passing of CEO/Pres. Barbara Erickson to rare cancer; Huge loss for conservation. Jocelyn Forbush acting interim CEO/Pres. Search for new CEO pending.
- Improved signage and trail markings throughout Trustees' properties

Dover Land Conservation Trust: No news re Dover Church; Church representatives say hopeful DLTC will ultimately purchase land on Pine St. but needs "more engineering".

Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust: Continues to acquire more shares of Norfolk Hunt land.

Mass Audubon Society: Broadmoor continues reserved, timed entries. Hopefully, to commence in-person programming over February break, night hikes, owl watches, and opening Summer Camp registration. At state level, new VP Policy/Advocacy position signals how CEO wants MAS to be more active around climate change, policy, advocacy.

Hale Reservation: CR and land discussions. Appraiser chosen.

Norfolk Hunt Club: Grounds for Celebration to be scheduled September or October 2021- Friday before Polo.

Board of Health:

Water Committee:

- Met with Kleinfelder consultants, established cost estimate for implementing the recommended action from the Kleinfelder report town approved. Will require multi-year look at ground water in Dover, at 10s of thousands \$\$ annually. Presenting to Warrant Committee 2/3/21.
- Also presenting to Warrant Committee 2/3/21 preliminary education/communication program requiring resources.
- Expect mail insert March or June tax bill re water conservation relative to irrigation systems. March insert would focus on system openings; June insert would add summer water conservation.
- Continue attending drought management task force meetings (Boston) via zoom, communicating results to BOS and BOH, working toward BOH regulations re lawn irrigation systems (requires vote)
- Discussed incentivizing vs. regulation.

Conservation Commission:

Usual plans to gradually improved properties continue. Dedham St. maintenance clearing reveal beautiful river views. Continue improving Valley Farm and investigate how to get rid of cypress spurge.

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Planning Board:

- Had initial meeting with Courtney Starling, reviewed 12-15 month plan of major activities, expect to move forward with items.
- Accessory dwelling bylaw hopefully addressed Spring 2021 town meeting; other bylaws 2022 meeting.
- Discussed proposed 40B on Route 109; Approved by state to move forward. 2/10/21 meeting re legal aspects. Obtaining tech assistance with Mass Housing partnership, will have consultant at 3/2021 public education workshop, peer reviews re traffic, analysis, geotechnical issues. Engaging Judy Barrett, zoning board of appeals handbook author to help.
- Discussed Septic concerns, especially the failure of prior 40Bs, risk of private well contamination.

Park and Recreation: 2/2021 meeting pending. Recreational Trail group hopes to approach MBTA for a non-profit taking the lease for Rail Trail.

Board of Selectmen: Warrant to be discussed next meeting and the process for town meeting TBD from order and magnitude of warrants, whether can hold indoor vs. outdoor. 2020 format very successful for short meeting. Expect a few more compelling items on warrant this year, looking at how and where to debate, how to get consent-related vote warrant items agenda packaged.

- Goal of BOS to look to acquire land, acquisition of open space should be a much higher item in OSRP
- Commended town maintenance during snow storms, with special attention on critical attention to low-salt, no salt areas.

Originally scheduled 3/2/2021 OSC meeting conflicts with Open Law Meeting training. Will send doodle re 3/1/2021 or 3/3/2021 OSC reschedule.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

ADDENDUM: Chair forwarded MassWoods Update 2/3/2021 via email

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Sullivan