

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

Attendees: Tara Nolan, Henry Faulkner, Greg Kahoun, Val Lin, Carol Lisbon (Planning Board), Justine Kent-Uritam

Absent: Amey Moot (Chair), Mark Adamczyk, Connie Sullivan, Boynton Glidden, Jerry Arnold (Liaison, Long Range Planning), Christy Violin (Conservation Commission), John Jeffries (Liaison, Board of Selectmen)

I. Minutes

On a motion made and seconded the minutes of January 3rd were approved unanimously. On a motion and seconded the minutes of February 7th were approved with Justine abstaining.

II. Open Space Related Warrant Articles

There was discussion and review of the Warrant Articles that are relevant to the Open Space Committee.

Two articles sponsored by Conservation Commission were discussed. The Article seeking \$25,000 in funding for any purpose allowed under Chapter 40 Section 8C was discussed and the Committee voted to support the Article conditioned on the Article having been reviewed by Town Counsel (OSC did not have access to the language of the Article). Conservation Commission is also seeking a bylaw change (181-6) to eliminate the \$5,000 cap on fees for consulting services. After discussion, a motion to support this Article was unanimously approved.

The Planning Board Article regarding updates to the Dover Flood Plain bylaw (185-44) was discussed. The proposed changes will bring the bylaw into conformance with current FEMA standard and thereby ensure that any Dover property owner with structures in the flood plan will have this insurance available to them. Absent these changes, the relatively few (approximately 42) residents that may be able to avail themselves of this program would be excluded. This does not impact any other properties. Justine noted that a map showing the flood plan may be useful to add. The Committee noted a few points that might make the presentation at Town Meeting more clear to people unfamiliar with the issue. On a motion made and seconded the Committee voted to support the Warrant Article.

III. Updates from Relevant Boards

- The Recycling Committee is organizing Town Clean-up during the month of April where residents help to pick-up along roadsides. Various Committees are involved in helping to spread the word. Carol Lisbon noted that so far has approximately 40% of streets accounted for. Last year they got 100% of streets covered and are hoping to push awareness in march and get all streets cared for again this year. There was discussion about outreach opportunities including Dover Mothers Association (DMA) and Facebook. The Committee supports this effort.
- OSC has two upcoming walks in April. On April 1st there will be a vernal pool walk ay Boynton's and Paul McManus of EcoTec has again agreed to lead and give a talk to attendees. On April 8th there will be a walk around Powisset Fields and then up to Nimrod Rock in Hale. There was discussion about where the walks are posted and whether there are additional ways of letting people know. Several members present indicated that but for being on the committee they would not know about the walks. Val offered to ask Park and Rec whether they would have an ability to help with that.
- DLCT is keeping its eye on the farm on Dedham Street, opposite Strawberry Hill.
- Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust continues to focus on Wardner Farm Trust.

- **Planning Board**
 - The Tree Preservation sub-committee and the Conway School held a very successful public forum in the Community Room at the Library on Saturday 2/4 with 32 participants despite the record cold day. They anticipate holding another one in early March.
 - Planning is concentrating on the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) and revised Flood Plain bylaws for this May 2023 Town Meeting. The Flood Plain revisions are required for residents to get flood insurance.
 - Town Village Center bylaw has been pushed to Fall Special Town Meeting or the 2024 Town Meeting.
 - The MBTA Communities Act presents several issues the Town will need to address in the coming year. The act requires an acknowledgement form be submitted which Dover did in February of 2022, with another filing required in January of 2023. By end of year 2025, if the town is going to conform, and have access to that program it would need a bylaw in place designating an area in which 102 housing units could be placed on a seven-acre parcel. It is not clear whether or how Dover can get to yes, but this issue will require attention in the coming 12 to 18 months. It was noted that there is no requirement to actually build the housing, simply designating the zone meets the compliance requirement.

- **Park and Recreation** – The town has a consultant looking at possible locations for pickleball courts. Current lawsuits in the area based on noise concerns are making the choice more complex. One possible location being considered is Caryl Park. The playground at Caryl is in need of updates so the town may decide to put together one intergenerational project. Tree planting is also being planned; they are working with the new Tree Warden and looking for drought tolerant trees.

III. Other

Water Issues / Drought – Aquarian was at a recent Con Comm meeting explaining the Knollwood wells work. Con Comm was trying to determine the filings needed to do wetlands work. Greg noted that it is hard to find the test well the town put it. Also, noted there are four or five septic systems close to those wellheads and pulling more water from those wells intuitively seems like a bad idea. While Aquarian had said the issue was more about quality than quantity, it was noted that the Knollwood wells do not have a manganese issue. There was discussion about the current administrative structure of the water working group and who, specifically, is working on water issues for the town and who is pulling and compiling data from the monitoring wells.

Dover Greenway – Tara inquired whether there was general interest among members of OSC to take an active role in helping explore and, perhaps, support an initiative to re-visit the Dover Greenway. Everyone noted that there are a number of significant efforts underway in town with Caryl and Hale, but there was general interest in exploring the options and opportunities, perhaps in 2024. Town previously voted on the issue and there was no support for a Town-funded effort. That vote was taken in 2016, if this were to be revisited, it will have been 8 or 9 years since the prior vote and several things have changed in the intervening period. The members present seemed to think it would be worthy of reconsideration once Caryl and Hale have been decided. The fact that both Needham and Medfield have trails that come almost to Dover’s town line may change the risk profile of a non-local entity at some point undertaking the work.

The Warrant Open Hearing will be Monday the 13th at 7:30 in the Town Hall. Tulip Mania, featuring over 50,000 tulips, will be blooming shortly at Elm Bank. The next meeting is April 4th at 7:30 via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara L Nolan