**Plympton Open Space Committee**

**Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – July 27, 2023**

**Held over Zoom Conference Call: zoom.us/j/8802901353**

**By Telephone: +1 646 558 8656**

**Meeting ID: 880 290 1353**

**Password: 948488**

**Present:** Committee Members: Vicki Alberti, Gavin Murphy, Jessica Kinsman; Conservation Agent: Brian Vasa

**At-Large:** Jane Schulze

**Others Present:** Sarah Grace Kelly, Mark Rothfuss, Peter Zwahlen

**Absent:** Alan Wheelock, Jacqueline Rafferty

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

**Interested OSC members:**

Mark Rothfuss and Peter Zwahlen introduced themselves and expressed their interest in joining to OSC and helping preserve open space in town.

**Open Space Committee members:**

- Vote on Sarahgrace Kelly's Letter of Intent

MOTION (Vicki): To accept Sarah Grace Kelly’s letter of interest and to nominate her as a member of the Open Space Committee.

SECOND (Gavin)

VOTE: All voted unanimously in favor with a roll call vote:

Vicki Alberti: Aye, Gavin Murphy: Aye, Jessica Kinsman: Aye.

- Vote on making Linda Leddy an At-Large member

MOTION (Vicki): To make Linda Leddy an At-Large member of the Open Space Committee.

SECOND (Gavin)

VOTE: All voted unanimously in favor with a roll call vote:

Vicki Alberti: Aye, Gavin Murphy: Aye, Jessica Kinsman: Aye.

- Discussion concerning Chair position

Gavin will be taking over as Chair of the OSC. At the next meeting he will be the Chair.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the 6/8/23 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION (Vicki): To approve the minutes of the 6/8/23 meeting as written.

SECOND (Gavin)

VOTE: All voted unanimously in favor with a roll call vote:

Vicki Alberti: Aye, Gavin Murphy: Aye, Jessica Kinsman: Aye.

**Report on Recreation Committee meeting:**

Gavin joined the Recreation Committee meeting. He will share the results of the town-wide survey. They will provide feedback shortly to keep the OSRP on track.

**Water Committee:**

The presentation happened on June 17th at the library. Gavin said there was a good turnout.

**Open Space and Recreation Plan:**

Gavin has been in touch with Bill Napolitano about helping with the OSRP and adding wording that will help with grants.

MOTION (Vicki): To approve up to $5,000 from the Pre-Acquisition account for Bill Napolitano to help with the OSRP.

SECOND (Gavin)

VOTE: All voted unanimously in favor with a roll call vote:

Vicki Alberti: Aye, Gavin Murphy: Aye, Jessica Kinsman: Aye.

The Committee continued going over new possible goals and objectives for the next OSRP:

**Goal 1 (Gavin): Protect Plympton’s current water supply and acquire land for future community wellheads.**

Original 2016 Goal: “Protect Plympton’s current water supply and acquire land for future community wellheads.”

Proposed 2023 Goal: “Preserve the quantity and quality of water available for use in Plympton.”

2016 Objective 1A: Review DEP maps of Town areas contributing to local water supply and fill in information gaps as needed

2023 Objective 1A: Continue to review and monitor maps from DEP and other sources to continuously improve our understanding of our Town water supply

2016 Objective 1B: Create a Water Study Committee of relevant Town departments to determine if the Town has adequately protected future community water supply wellheads,

2023 Objective 1B: Continue the efforts of the Water Study Committee, coordinating information across relevant Town departments and advocating for the protection of the Town water supply

2016 Objective 1C: Prioritize and acquire land as needed for future community wellheads

2023 Objective 1C: Evaluate and acquire land, as appropriate, for the protection of the Town’s current and future water supply

2016 Objective 1D: Work with Board of Selectmen, Planning, Zoning, Health and other Boards to adopt bylaws, regulations and agreements that protect the water supply now and in the future

2023 Objective 1D: Work with Board of Selectmen, Planning, Zoning, Health and other Boards to adopt bylaws, regulations and agreements that protect and enhance the Town’s current and future water supply

**Goal 2 (Vicki): Protect and preserve Plympton’s natural resources, including water and unique wildlife habitats, for the benefit of present and future generations.**

Vicki felt that maybe Goal 2 should be Goal 1 now, since it may be the most important goal.

Objective 2A: Add “Continue” since some progress has been made.

Objective 2B (maybe move lower on the objectives): Add “Continue” since some progress has been made.

Objective 2C: Review new BioMap

Objective 2D: Add “Continue” since some progress has been made.

Objective 2E: Add “Continue” since some progress has been made.

Objective 2F: Educate and promote private land owner conservation opportunities.

**Goal 3 (Jane): Preserve the rural character, diverse agriculture, and traditional New England elements of Plympton.**

Objective 3A: Promote and support Plympton’s farming and farm-related businesses.

Objective 3B: Work closely with the local agricultural community to collaborate in maintaining local farms and farmland and to secure permanent protection of key agricultural lands.

Objective 3C: Connect farmers with resources and potential partners to facilitate the preservation of existing farmlands.

Objective 3D: Protect, preserve, and conserve Plympton’s scenic open space, field, and forested vistas.

Objective 3E: Protect, preserve, and conserve Plympton’s historical and cultural assets.

**Goal 4 (Gavin): Support and enhance passive and active recreation that is in balance with natural systems on Town-owned parcels that are designated for recreational use.**

 Original 2016 Goal: “Support and enhance passive and active recreation that is in balance with natural systems on Town-owned parcels that are designated for recreational use.”

 Proposed 2023 Goal: “Support passive and active recreation in balance with natural systems.”

2016 Objective 4A: Via the Recreational Committee and Open Space Committee, seek feedback from the public about the use and maintenance of current recreational areas, and priorities for future recreational services, including pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle trails, as well as soccer fields, basketball courts etc.

2023 Objective 4A: Via the Recreational Committee and Open Space Committee, seek feedback from the public about the use and maintenance of current recreational areas, and priorities for future recreational services, including pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle trails, as well as soccer fields, basketball courts etc.

2016 Objective 4B: In collaboration with the Planning Board and Bylaw committee, seek ways to access and secure lands adjacent to proposed housing developments for common uses, such as “pocket parks,” bandstands, walking trails and community gardens.

2023 Objective 4B: In collaboration with the Planning Board and Bylaw committee, seek ways to access and secure lands adjacent to proposed housing developments for common uses, such as “pocket parks,” bandstands, walking trails and community gardens.

2023 Objective 4C: Maintain Town recreation facilities and provide recreation activities to the Town based on public feedback and to the extent possible

2016 Objective 4C: Support and expand groups of volunteers who help maintain town recreational areas by clearing trails, and maintaining other facilities

2023 Objective 4D: Support and expand groups of volunteers who help maintain town recreational areas by clearing trails, and performing other maintenance as appropriate

**Goal 5 (Alan): Promote public awareness about Plympton's natural resources, conservation initiatives, historic features, and recreational resources.**

Alan was not at the meeting to present his objectives.

From the previous meeting:

**Goal 1: Protect Plympton’s current water supply and acquire land for future community wellheads.**

Gavin thought this goal could be broader to say:

“Preserve the quantity and quality of water available for use in Plympton.”

The Committee agreed with this change. Bill said that having this in the OSRP could strengthen the bylaw.

**Goal 2: Protect and preserve Plympton’s natural resources, including water and unique wildlife habitats, for the benefit of present and future generations.**

Linda said that she thought it could say:

“Preserve and expand the conservation, open space, and natural green infrastructure assets of the Town.”

The Committee liked this change. It creates a broader umbrella of protection. The specifics of the current wording can be listed as an objective. “for the benefit of present and future generations” can be added to the opening paragraph of the section describing all of the goals.

**Goal 3: Preserve the rural character, diverse agriculture, and traditional New England elements of Plympton.**

Linda suggested changing the wording to:

“Preserve Plympton’s rural character, diverse agriculture, and traditional New England attributes.”

This answer came up time and time again in residents’ responses to the OSRP. It is not a big change, so the Committee felt that goal from 2016 did not need to be changed.

**Goal 4: Support and enhance passive and active recreation that is in balance with natural systems on Town-owned parcels that are designated for recreational use.**

Linda thought that this one should be simplified/broadened to:

“Support passive and active recreation in balance with natural systems.”

The Recreation Committee is meeting next week and sent a message asking if the Open Space Committee was interested in joining. Gavin volunteered to attend that meeting. The Committee will wait on changing that goal until hearing feedback from the Recreation Committee.

**Goal 5: Promote public awareness about Plympton's natural resources, conservation initiatives, historic features, and recreational resources.**

The Committee talked about possibly changing “awareness” to “education”.

Linda suggested:

“Foster a Plympton “sense of place” that celebrates Plympton’s natural, historic, and community assets.”

Bill liked also using the wording “promote stewardship”. The Committee agreed and felt that wording should be added somewhere.

It was suggested that members take the new Goals, review the 2016 Objectives, see if the Objectives were met, and make suggestions for updated Goals.

Goal 1: Gavin

Goal 2: Vicki

Goal 3: Jane

Goal 4: Gavin

Goal 5: Alan

There were a total of 128 responses to the OSRP Survey: 116 responses on Survey Monkey and 12 paper copies.

The next OSRP is due by the end of January 2024. OSC’s goal will be to complete the plan by October 2023 to give enough time to finalize any edits required by the state reviewer. It is necessary to have an approved OSRP to apply for future state grants.

**Turkey Swamp:**

The closing still has not happened. There are still some last-minute maneuvers but progress is steady..

**Preserves:**

- Harry Jason Park - Discuss the plan for signage

A design was emailed to the Committee. Members were agreeable to the style. The BOS discussed it and went ahead with the design.

**Warrant:** None

**Motion to Adjourn:**

MOTION (Vicki): To adjourn the meeting.

SECOND (Gavin)

VOTE: All voted unanimously in favor with a roll call vote:

Vicki Alberti: Aye, Gavin Murphy: Aye, Alan Wheelock: Aye, Jessica Kinsman: Aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm

The next meeting will be determined via email.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Brian Vasa