

Plympton Open Space Committee

Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – October 12, 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: Chair Gavin Murphy, Vicki Alberti, Sarahgrace Kelly, Jacqueline Rafferty; Jessica Kinsman (at 7:29pm); Conservation Agent: Brian Vasa

At-Large: Jane Schulze

Absent: Alan Wheelock

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Minutes:

The minutes from the 9/14/23 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION (Gavin): To approve the minutes of the 9/14/23 meeting as written.

SECOND (Vicki)

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

Gavin Murphy: Aye, Vicki Alberti: Aye, Sarahgrace Kelly: Aye; Jacqueline Rafferty: Aye

Open Space and Recreation Plan:

The Recreation Commission gave feedback on the Goals and Objectives.

Bill Napolitano gave initial feedback on the Goals and Objectives. He had a call with Gavin, Linda, and Brian to discuss what help he could give to the OSRP. He is now working part-time at Old Colony Planning Council and will be able to help with the language of the OSRP to help secure grant opportunities and collaborate with neighboring communities. He will make substantial changes to the OSRP, and OCPC can give help in other areas as well.

The Committee could use OCPC for some help and have a rider for extra services.

For the OSRP, a small committee including Bill can update the plan with climate change language. In a couple of months, there will be a copy for the OSC to review and make comments. Also, the OSC can split up the OSRP and assign a couple of people to each take a section and look at edits.

There is not as big a rush to get the OSRP finished by January since Bill thinks the earliest grants would be in May or July.

MOTION (Gavin): To approve up to \$5,000 from the Pre-Acquisition account for OSRP assistance from Bill Napolitano and OCPC.

SECOND (Vicki)

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

Gavin Murphy: Aye, Vicki Alberti: Aye, Sarahgrace Kelly: Aye; Jacqueline Rafferty: Aye

Preserves:

Turkey Swamp:

The Town closed on Turkey Swamp on August 29th. 238.04 acres were protected with the other approximately 40 acres expected to be donated to the Town. Brian Vasa mapped the existing trails. There is currently no legal access.

Two Brooks Preserve:

The committee discussed how the bogs should be mowed. Jason Zimmer provided some comments on the benefits of mowing on a 1, 2, or 3-year schedule, and the committee reviewed these.

Beavers:

The beavers have been very active at Two Brooks Preserve and have blocked up all 3 culverts. Mike Callahan and Beaver Solutions will come out on October 31st to install 2 fence and pipe systems at the 2 bog culverts to keep them clear.

To allocate \$8,000 from the Two Brooks Contingency fund for Beaver Solutions:

MOTION (Gavin): To allocate up to \$8,000 from the Two Brooks Contingency fund for Beaver Solutions to install the beaver devices at Two Brooks Preserve.

SECOND (Vicki)

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

Gavin Murphy: Aye, Vicki Alberti: Aye, Sarahgrace Kelly: Aye; Jacqueline Rafferty: Aye

Mowing:

Brian drafted a mowing policy for Two Brooks Preserve. The Committee reviewed and amended it.

MOTION (Gavin): To adopt the Two Brooks Preserve Mowing Policy for the Highway Department

SECOND (Jackie)

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

Gavin Murphy: Aye, Vicki Alberti: Aye, Sarahgrace Kelly: Aye; Jacqueline Rafferty: Aye

Vicki will send the policy to the Highway Department to see if what is outlined is feasible.

Other Items:

Jackie discussed a couple of grant opportunities for environmental groups to help with clean water protection. It was mentioned that Bill Napolitano is working on a regional approach to assist with clean water protection.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION (Jessica): To adjourn the meeting.

SECOND (Vicki)

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

Gavin Murphy: Aye, Vicki Alberti: Aye, Sarahgrace Kelly: Aye; Jacqueline Rafferty: Aye; Alan Wheelock: Aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

The next meeting will be on November 9th, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Brian Vasa