

Plympton Open Space Committee

Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – November 10, 2022
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: Linda Leddy, Jacqueline Rafferty, Gavin Murphy, Alan Wheelock, Jessica Kinsman; Conservation Agent: Brian Vasa

At-Large: Jane Schulze

Others Present:

Absent: Vicki Alberti

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Water Committee:

Gavin, Jessica, and Chris Lawrence had a meeting last month and Gavin discussed his one-page description of the Water Committee. He also discussed when Plympton ran out of water in the mid-late 1990s and residents with shallow wells needed to go to a water truck. The one-page description is almost finished, at which point it can serve as an educational tool for the public about the current status of the Town's water and the importance of developing water backups and alternatives.

The Committee is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Open Space and Recreation Plan:

Since the last meeting, the Committee went through the OSRP and discussed what needs to be updated for the next version. Chapter 7 was discussed and what needs to be considered for the resident survey. The goals, objectives, and actions in Chapter 8 will need to be updated.

Survey:

Alan will chair the Subcommittee responsible for the next OSRP's Residential Survey - Vicki and Jane work with him. Alan said the 2024 draft survey should plan to be ready by the Town Meeting latest, so it should be started right after the holiday. It is also very important to have an unbiased survey without trying to guide people to one conclusion. Gavin suggested that the more the questions stay the same from the previous survey, the better a comparison can be drawn between the two surveys.

Needs and Objectives:

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

Gavin wants to expand the wording of this goal to encompass more options and solutions.
1B: Water Committee has been created, but not encompassing Town departments.
1D: Alan mentioned that it is important to review what current bylaws are protecting water and what ones can be added/changed, while making sure not to create any conflicts between bylaws.

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

The Committee agreed that it is still very important and relevant. This goal has been used extensively.

2A: Over 400 acres, between Two Brooks and Turkey Swamp, have been protected since this objective was created.

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

3B: It would be ideal to have an active Agricultural Commission, but it has been difficult recently as the previous chair has passed away.

3F: Jackie expressed concern over the walkability of the Town Center. Even walking on the sidewalk, she is afraid of speeding cars. The Town Properties Committee is looking into Town Center improvements.

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.

Jessica thought it was important to make sure to include places where disabled and differently-abled people can go to recreate. An example would be to clear and improve the trail around the old watering hole.

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

This is something the OSC can hopefully do in the future.

The OSC will look further over Chapter 7 to analyze current needs, SCORP goals, and ADA requirements.

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.

MVP Grant:

There will be a Special Town Meeting on November 30th to vote on Turkey Swamp Preserve.

CPC:

The OSC will likely request \$30,000 from the CPC for pre-acquisition funds.

Warrant:

Linda Leddy: Open Space & Rec Plan copies \$269.75 and \$45.00, Cato's Ridge maps \$65.61, Hunting Signs, \$12.67

Rick Burnet: Up to \$75.00 for plexiglass for Churchill Park kiosk.

Wendy Jones: \$161.71 for recording the deed for the Cobb Fresh Meadow lot.

MOTION (Linda): To approve the funds expended by Linda, Rick, and Wendy for Open Space & Rec Plan copies and Cato's Ridge materials.

SECOND (Jackie)

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

Linda Leddy: Aye, Alan Wheelock: Aye, Jacqueline Rafferty: Aye, Gavin Murphy: Aye

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION (Linda): To adjourn the meeting.

SECOND (Alan)

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

Linda Leddy: Aye, Alan Wheelock: Aye, Jacqueline Rafferty: Aye, Gavin Murphy: Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 8th at 7pm.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Brian Vasa