**Plympton Open Space Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – March 11, 2021**

**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, Jane Schulze Vicki Alberti, Susan Ossoff; Alan Wheelock, Conservation Agent: Brian Vasa

**Others Present:** Mark Russo, Bill Napolitano

**Absent:** Gavin Murphy

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

**MVP:**

OSC members commented on the first two presentations to date- “Green Infrastructure”( Jan 28) and “Soils and Municipal Resilience” (Feb 25.) All comments were very positive, especially for clarity of presentations, usefulness of maps and graphics and helpful answers by presenters to audience/OSC questions.The depth and breadth of the information that these MVP presentations are bringing is amazing. (What is the future of our Oak forests? How can we manage peaty soils and why should we? Are there potential linkages between Plympton and other nearby town’s key habitats/resources? etc)

OSC will continue to send the notices about next presentations to the local paper, facebook pages, Town pages and related organizations. This produced several new attendees for these last sessions.

Bill noted that he has secured two upcoming presentations:

3/18: Alex Hackman will be presenting about the state’s ecological restoration program, especially for restoring working cranberry bogs. Bill hopes that Alex also will be able to make a field visit to the new Two Brooks bogs this spring as well.

3/25: Another presentation from either TNC (‘Nature Based Solutions”)or Mass Audubon ( “LID and Bylaw Review”). Both of these are part of the series, not sure who will come on 3/25.

**NRPZ:**

The NRPZ project with the Old Colony Planning Council is scheduled to finish by May 30. On March 5, Jane Schulze and Linda Leddy talked with Joanne Zygmunt from OCPC to review the possible next steps. After reviewing a background memo OSC sent to OCPC, Joanne asked that the OSC decide by April 1 what it would like next from OCPC. One option is for OCPC to draft an NRPZ bylaw for Plympton. The other is for the OSC to put the NRPZ project on hold, in order to pursue other related issues that have emerged during the NRPZ project.

The Committee discussed these alternatives, as well as the related issues it has learned more about, and concluded that it makes most sense to put the NRPZ project on hold. Members agreed that several of the issues, such as drawing up a Town Master Plan, addressing the future of the Town’s water supply and implementing the Town’s Housing plan are beyond the scope of OSC’s mandate, OSC will send a memo to OCPC outlining these issues as well as the land conservation projects that the OSC will continue to carry out. OSC expressed great thanks to the OCPC for its guidance and assistance during the NRPZ project.

MOTION (Vicki): To table NRPZ studies within the Open Space Committee to a later date when the Committee has more information and can consider moving forward on it.

SECOND (Alan)

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

Linda Leddy: Aye, Jane Shultze: Aye, Vicki Alberti: Aye, Alan Wheelock: Aye, Susan Ossoff: Aye,

**Two Brooks Preserve:**

As part of its review of Plympton’s request that Wildlands Trust hold the required conservation restriction, the Trust’s Land Committee will be visiting soon to walk the Two Brooks property. The latest version of the maps of the TBP parcel have been completed, with the possibility that a few small parcels may be added in the future. These maps will be used to develop a Notice of Intent for a trail network to be submitted to the Plympton Conservation Commission. The assessor’s office and the town of Middleboro have drawn up a draft map of the proposed access area off Soule St.

Vicki Alberti met with the Soule Homestead’s director regarding their rules for visitors: Horse-riding is allowed, but dogs are not, due to the many farm animals at the Homestead. Two Brooks Preserve will need to require that dogs be leashed, and post signs that dog-walkers cannot go past Preserve borders to the Soule Homestead.

**Old Minutes:**

MOTION (Linda): To accept minutes of October 8, 2020 and November 12, 2020 as revised.

SECOND (Jane)

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

Linda Leddy: Aye, Jane Shultze: Aye, Vicki Alberti: Aye, Alan Wheelock: Aye, Susan Ossoff: Aye

**Motion to Adjourn:**

MOTION (Susan): To adjourn the meeting.

SECOND (Vicki)

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

Linda Leddy: Aye, Jane Shultze: Aye, Vicki Alberti: Aye, Alan Wheelock: Aye, Susan Ossoff: Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm

With the exception of the presentations on March 18 and March 25, the next meeting will be on Thursday, April 8th at 7pm.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Brian Vasa