

Plympton Open Space Committee

Minutes of Open Virtual Meeting – September 14, 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; Alan Wheelock; Conservation Agent: Brian Vasa

At-Large: Jane Schulze

Guests: Mike & Chris Domey

Absent: Jessica Kinsman

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

This was Gavin Murphy's first meeting as Chair.

Eagle Scout Project:

Mike Domey and his son Chris Domey are interested in pursuing an Eagle Scout Project at one of the preserves. Chris would like to build a bench at Two Brooks Preserve.

The Committee has previously decided against having benches at Two Brooks to keep it more of a preserve than a park. Also, there is a concern about the benches deteriorating over time and needing maintenance.

Vicki discussed making a bird-blind out of the pumphouse. Also, the possibility of building a bench inside of the bird-blind was a unique option that was considered.

Minutes:

The minutes from the 7/27/23 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION (Alan): To approve the minutes of the 7/27/23 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; Alan Wheelock: Aye.

Change of Chairperson:

MOTION (Alan): To appoint Gavin Murphy as chairperson of the Open Space Committee

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; Alan Wheelock: Aye.

Water Committee:

Gavin said that since he is now the Chair of the OSC, the Water Committee will no longer meet separately from the OSC.

Alan mentioned that the Groundwater Protection Overlay District Bylaw was passed at the Town Meeting, and once the District Attorney approves that, the Town's groundwater protections will be stronger than ever.

Open Space and Recreation Plan:

Gavin spoke with Bill Napolitano a week ago. 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.

The Committee reviewed the Goals and Objectives from the previous two meetings and made some minor edits. They will be sent to Bill and the Recreation Committee for review.

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 is mapping 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.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION (Gavin): To adjourn the meeting.

SECOND (Alan)

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 October 12th, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Brian Vasa