

Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
Open Space Committee
Phone: (978) 874-7414

Minutes of Meeting – November 21, 2022 – Selectmen's Meeting Room

In attendance: Jodi Snyder, Sue Millman, Isaiah Grigos, Heather Billings, Marie Auger, Amy Tisdale
Others: Tracy Murphy, Town Planner

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

1. Approval of minutes: Motion made by I. Grigos/H. Billings to accept the minutes.
Discussion: A suggestion was made to list members of the committee separate from others in attendance.
The OSRP Committee voted 4-0-2 to approve the minutes with the format change as noted.
2. Discussion: H. Billings explained that Brian Sargent, who was in attendance at the October 18, 2022 meeting, is a student that is interested in GIS mapping if the committee has a need.

The Open Space Committee (OSC) discussed the complexity of the various options and costs associated with the mapping project that were presented by MRPC staff at the October 18 meeting. Adding another layer to the existing GIS program (Mr. Mapper) would cost \$800.00 and providing a PDF version will cost an additional \$800.00. H. Billings spoke to the Town Administrator about funding the mapping project and the idea to utilize the 8 hours of GIS services allotted to the town from MRPC. T. Murphy to find out if there are any hours remaining.

The OSRPC went on to discuss the importance of having a trail map that is of use with the best case scenario, it being interactive. The OSC discussed the goal of having a mapping program that has the ability to focus on specific trails where one would have access to information such as parking areas, points of interest and checkpoints using a QR code that is posted at individual trailheads. The overall purpose is to aid the hiker throughout the trail as there are some dense areas where a detailed map is needed.

3. Format/Timelines: The OSRPC decided that their first task is to make sure that the existing trail inventory map is accurate. Sherri Bean, (MRPC) walked the Hager Park trails and found that trails abruptly end or end on private property, i.e. a resident's backyard. The OSC felt that the existing trail map that was compiled by MRPC is not missing much information. It was decided that it is best to look at the gaps and determine how best to fill them. T. Murphy will provide a hard copy of the existing trail inventory for the OSRPC members to work on its completeness and to formulate a plan to fill gaps. H. Billings informed the OSRPC that the Crocker Pond Recreation Committee is currently finishing a map of that area and will bring it to the next meeting to use as an example, if complete.

Follow up discussion included A. Tisdale bringing up that the OSC needs to make sure that properties that are in 61B had trails and that they are accessible to the public. The OSC discussed

follow up on cluster development properties for this reason. Areas to look into include Woods of Westminster, Lighthouse Lane, and Sawin Dr. M. Auger also brought up the idea of connecting the Oakmont trails to the Mid-State trail with the only roadblock being a perennial stream crossing. The OSC decided that was too big of a project to pursue at this time.

I. Grigos asked T. Murphy to look into the Scenic Road Bylaw that Steve (former planner) had started. J. Snyder mentioned that the updated OSC listed Scenic Roads and Trails as a starting point to assess the need for a bylaw.

For next meeting: T. Murphy will bring a hard copy of the existing trails inventory, find out the amount of GIS hours remaining, ask Sheri Bean of MRPC what "new" information she has on trails that are not listed on the inventory, look into Open Space transfers to the town and if appropriate, confirm they have trails that are accessible to the public and send out draft minutes and agenda to committee members well in advance of the next meeting.

4: Next Meeting: Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM in room 222.

5: Motion to adjourn, J. Snyder/M. Auger.
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Murphy
Town Planner