Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting 12-14-21 7 pm-8:15 pm

Present: Paula Devereaux (chair), Nancy Cantelmo (recorder). Ellen Antrim, Rebecca Pillsbury Durgin

Guests:

Trish Aldrich, Lynne Spencer, Diane Monteith

Meeting called to order at 7 pm

**CPC grant approved at Town Meeting May, 2021**

Nancy and Ellen had submitted a document prior to this meeting about the difficulties in advancing this project involving the removal of invasive plants and the replanting with native species on the east slope of Bailey’s Hill. Due to the great deal of work that needed to be done on other areas of town, it was difficult to meet with the DPW. Months after the project was approved, the Conservation Commission Chair, Kristen Kent, stated that the portions of Baileys Hill in the wetland jurisdiction, should be cleared in sections, and that the use of chemicals for some invasive plants, would require multiple stages of treatment and delay replanting. The DPW became interested in another portion of Bailey’s Hill and proposed clearing understory with grassy planting between trees. Nancy and Ellen concluded that an overall management plan for the entire hill be developed by an outside ecological firm and submitted for a new grant.

Lynne Spencer, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, agreed that implementation of the original plan should not have taken so long, and that this was to be a kind of pilot for the other sections of this land, also in need of restoration. She agreed that an overall management plan would be a good idea, and suggested that members of the OSRP Committee meet with the

Town Administrator to discuss how best to proceed. She was offered to attend a meeting with TA and OSRP members.

**Management Plan for Lodge Park**

A group called Friends of East Point Nahant is looking to develop a management plan for Lodge Park. This group has asked environmental companies to submit bids for a plan for this area and has selected one. They propose to request CPC funding for this project and have obtained part of the funds as a matching grant from SWIM. The involvement of OSR with Friends of East Point Nahant will be further discussed in the future.

**Notice to Prevent Acquisition of Easement**

Paula noted a legal notice posted near the corner of Nahant Road near Forty Steps. This was written by the 3 landowners who own the property between Forty Steps and Canoe Beach, involving Castle Rock to prevent people from walking across that land. Paula researched a Perimeter Path document from the 1850’s which failed to mention this portion of land. She thought that it was probably not needed than as this was conventionally used by people at that time. The areas defined as the Perimeter Path then were along property where the houses were closer to the water, and access was more difficult, such as near Cary Street.

One thought about the reason for this recent legal document was to prevent the liability of the owners of this area from people who might be injured on this land, especially as it has become used by many more people over the last two years. Another thought had to do with prevention of damage to this area, which is seriously threatened by erosion.

As a committee involved in the rights of way and access to the water, this is of interest. For the present, no action by the OSRP Committee was proposed.

**Town Owned Land Study Committee**

This committee was formed to advise the Town of Nahant on issues related to town owned land. There are frequently disputed areas of land ownership due to improperly laid out streets. There is a seat on this committee for a member of the OSRPC. At present no one from our committee is available. At present, our task is completion of our plan, and having accomplished that, we hope to further define the scope work of the committee.

**Open Space Plan**

Paula has been unable to communicate with Courtney Lewis, our MAPC consultant, about our plan. We have submitted sections on goals and action items, and the plant section which he had requested and we have not received sections he had promised to complete. Paula will let the committee know when she hears from him and when our next meeting will be scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Ellen, seconded by Nancy.

Respectfully submitted to the Town Clerk’s Office as approved at the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting on January 13, 2022.