

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee October 26, 2022 7-8 pm

Present: Paula Devereaux, chair, Nancy Cantelmo, recorder, Ellen Antrim, Rebecca Pillsbury Durgin, members; Vi Patek, guest. Meeting held in person at Town Hall.

Minutes of June 6, 2022 meeting approved with a motion by Ellen, seconded by Rebecca. All members approved, one abstention by Trish, who was not at the meeting.

OSRP Final approval granted. The approved plan should be on the Town website. Hard copies should be available at Town Hall, NPL and NHS. Paula will speak with Kristin Taylor to arrange. Once link is established, we will forward to contributors.

Draft Plan for Lodge Park Walk with Town Administrator, 2 Selectman, Bill Giezentanner, from Mass Audubon, members of Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee and Friends of Lodge Park on August 10, 2022. Topics of discussion- safety, signage, invasive species, overall design and maintenance. Tony requested public forum conducted by OSRP Committee to provide Nahant citizens the opportunity to give input to plan. Informational sign at Veterans Park and consistent signs all over town would be desirable.

Tues Dec 6 suggested for date of public forum. We will ask Bill G and Tony for availability on that date and schedule.

Planting Plan for Baileys Hill site. The Committee noted the extensive work performed by the DPW recently. Zach Taylor said that the drought reduced town mowing and gave the DPW time to focus on this project. CPA grant money was used for heavy machinery rental, and work performed by DPW. We do not know how much of the original budget was spent as of now. Vi Patek spoke with Zach, who is amenable to working with a native plant plan and is recommending shrubs as major plantings. Committee members will meet at Baileys Hill with Parterre Consulting Firm on Nov 2, 2022, to which Zach will hopefully join. For remainder of Fort Ruckman Hill, the concept of forest restoration, rather than extensive clearing was discussed.

CPA funding was granted at the 2022 town meeting for opposite side of Baileys Hill toward the south. It was recommended that a tree survey be undertaken there before management plan begins. Since that hill has more varied types and ages of trees, the area may require mostly invasive removal.

Open Space Encroachment Paula discussed two areas- one on Flash Road, shown clearly by Town Assessor, Sheila Hambleton, to be large encroachment and the other on Summer Street into Marjoram Park. Town lawyer needs to be made aware of these issues. Paula will alert them. It was noted that the town was addressing similar issues in Little Nahant.

Linda Pivacek has brought up the subject of pumping of water from **Bear Pond** into ocean during times of drought and questioned the dark color of the water. Prior to this meeting, Tony Barletta, Josh Antrim and Mark Cullinan all weighed in that the pumping was appropriately controlled by a float and that the dark color of the water was normal. The pumping occurs on a

schedule, including before a heavy rain to create storage. The discharge has been approved by the EPA, and there is an MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) permit.

Committee Organization. Due to very heavy work demands, Paula will resign as chair of OSRPC. She will remain until a new chair is declared and will continue to serve as a member of the OSRPC. Her task of getting an approved OSR Plan has been accomplished and she will work on a Bylaw to be introduced to the Town Meeting in May of 2023, regarding reorganization of the OSRPC. The members recommended increasing the committee members from 5 to 7, giving the committee the authorization to continue work on projects during the cycle of 7 years before a new plan must be written and to consider expanding the role of the OSRPC to include more land acquisition with environmental protection. Paula is currently reviewing structures of the committees in other Massachusetts towns. The OSRP Committee thanked her for her work and is pleased that she will continue to share her expertise with us.

Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Ellen and a second by Rebecca.

Respectfully submitted to the Town Clerk's office, as approved by the Open Space and Recreation Committee on December 6, 2022.