

Open Space and Recreation Committee

July 10, 2023 Town Hall Conference Room 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Present: Trish Aldrich chair, Ellen Antrim, Nancy Cantelmo recorder, Rebecca Pillsbury Durgin



Minutes

The minutes of the 6-20-23 OSRC were reviewed. A motion was made by Ellen and seconded by Trish, and the committee approved them unanimously. Nancy will send to Town Clerk for posting.

Signage for Lodge Park

Guided by the Henry Cabot Lodge Memorial Park Restoration and Management Plan, we discussed preliminary proposals. These included 2 wayfinding signs by Trish, 1 or 2 history signs by Ellen, a map showing the view from Lodge Park by Rebecca and a natural history sign by Nancy. Guidelines from our June 20 meeting included a mostly visual sign with a limited number of about 150-200 words. Much information was included in that restoration plan that is useful for all these signs.

Trish described 2 mostly identical signs, one at Canoe Beach and one at the turn to the left at the top of the hill toward Lodge Park. The signs would include a welcome, description of why the park was founded (passive recreation, nature, honor Lodge and Volpe), a land acknowledgment, rules and guidance about visiting the park and fun facts, Did You Know?? Nancy's proposal needed shortening. Suggestions were to discuss geology, list and not describe the 5 natural communities, except to detail the Cultural Grassland, its importance and management. Further recommendations were to discuss the importance of birds at Lodge Park and stewardship. Pictures of geology, birds and the grasslands were suggested.

Ellen had done historical research online and at the Nahant Historical Society. She proposed topics to include the indigenous peoples, Hotel and Lodge estate in one sign and military history in another.

Rebecca found information about using sources to prepare maps and to reproduce our images at a high resolution. She is looking into GIS maps and various views and perspectives.

These recommendations will be considered and further work will proceed on each sign before the next meeting in August. It is realistically many months and discussion with the town people and officials before the signs will be realized. As the budget is under \$10K, we can proceed with our original bid from the sign producers, Pannier.

Bailey's Hill

The planting plan for the Fort Ruckman area will be presented to the OSR Committee, Town Administrator and Superintendent of DPW, on July 18th at 3 pm at Town Hall by Miles of Parterre Ecological. Members of the Community Preservation Committee and interested parties were invited to this open meeting.

As estimates for execution of this grant are between \$10,000 and \$50,000, three bids are needed before we proceed. Other companies for contract packages include SumCo Eco-Contracting and Essex Horticulture.

Payment to Parterre for their planting plan is not yet complete. We must submit an exact bill to the town of what we owe after July 1st, minus the two payments we have made. Trish is working on getting the correct invoice and submitting it to the town.

Future Meetings

The sign group will meet again on August 14th at 3 pm.

The next meeting of the entire OSR Committee will be planned for late August or early September. We will contact Paula for possible dates. Prospective members will be invited.

Respectfully submitted to the Town Clerk's office, as approved by the Open Space and Recreation Committee on August 14, 2023.