

**Approved Minutes of the OS&R Committee Meeting
Monday, Aug 10 2015, at 7:30 PM
Town Hall Annex**

Members in attendance: Stephanie Cunningham (SC), Lawrence Neal (LN), Ted Tarr (TT), Peter Van Demark (PV)

Members absent: None

Guest in attendance:
Tom Mikus

730PM Meeting called to order

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by LAN seconded by SC to approve the July 13, 2015 minutes. The motion passed on a 3/0 vote with PV abstaining because he did not attend that meeting

Open Discussion:

Tom Mikus is joining the Rights of Way committee. He has prepared a web page and link connections so ROW information would be more readily available to the public. The BOS office is working on a social media policy. It is expected to be reviewed at tomorrow night's BOS meeting. There are some questions about how this will affect other town committee's online presence. Tom is planning on attending BOS meeting to hear policy and discussion.

Discussion on Land Protection:

General discussion about current activity. This included Essex County Green Belt's (ECGA) efforts with local land owners of high interest parcels and the ConCom. ECGA has come to agreement to increase protection of some of the private land along Lane Farm Way and continues to work to protect 50 Acres of core habitat land in Pigeon Cove. Still expecting a renewed push by ECGA, ConCom and OSRC in the fall to better educate all in the many economic, environmental advantages and importance of protecting Open Space as a planning tool.

Local resident approached SC about a possible Conservation Restriction on a wet area of a Rockport lot. She recommended they contact ECGA.

OSR Plan Review:

The high interest parcel list has been reviewed. Will distribute short list next meeting to our committee (LN). Many of those land owners have periodically been contacted but we have found little interest from them in selling or protecting their land.

Committee to consider other possible approaches and where to focus for land protection.

GIS and Trail Mapping:

Trial from "Kelley's Road" to transfer station flooded and still not found. With years of over grown plants it is very difficult to find where this trail was. LN had expected to check

with a frequent user 10 years ago and ask if he will rough mark its location with paint or markers so that it can be evaluated for future use, but did not talk with him. Will do this period

TT is very concerned that many trails are growing in, there are very few people and them on a very limited schedule interested in volunteering to clear them. It was discussed that this may need a new approach to survive. It may very likely needed to be funded in future even if some "volunteer clippers" can be found. SC will check with Boxford Trail Assc. about grants and CPA funding they use. There was general feeling there most needs to be an interested knowledgeable person willing to put in considerable work to lead this effort. No one has come forward to be that person.

Next Actions on OSR Plan:

LN will distribute current short list parcels of high interest material. Biggest change is Woodland acres has been offer ECGA and town for protection at a reduced price to be negotiated. In our 2009 plan it was a subdivision under construction. The majority of it was never built and permits have now expired.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics:

Next meeting: 14 Sept 2015 Discussion new short list of Private parcels for protection, Meeting at Town Hall Annex

Motion to Adjourn: 8:41PM LN motioned to adjourn, PV seconded. Vote passed 4/0

These minutes prepared by LN