

**Approved Minutes of the OS&R Committee Meeting  
Monday, October 6, 2014, at 7:30 PM  
Town Hall Annex**

**Members in attendance:** Stephanie Cunningham (SC), Lawrence Neal (LN), Ted Tarr (TT)

**Members absent:** Peter Van Demark (PV)

**Guest in attendance:** None

**7:30PM Meeting called to order**

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by LN and seconded by SC to approve the August 18, 2014 meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed on a 3/0 vote. A motion was made by LN and seconded by SC to approve the September 15, 2014 meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed on a 3/0 vote.

**Open Discussion:**

None this meeting

**Land Protection Activities:**

Discussed a current application with the ConCom by the DPW and Granite Savings Bank to open the view of the Granite Co. Keystone Bridge now blocked by overgrown trees. There is general support of the idea by OSRC, but the members have some safety concerns with the current narrow sidewalk. It would be a good town project to review alternatives to improve the safety of vehicle and pedestrian flow over the bridge.

**OSR Plan Review:**

Set a start date of December 2015 to begin the process of getting state re-approval of our plan. Current Plan expires December 2016. It is critical to keep it current with the possible land acquisitions under consideration, and the state grants that will be needed to support them.

**GIS and Trail Mapping:**

Not discussed this meeting.

**Next Actions on OSR Plan:**

Next meeting will be in the Town Hall Annex with the use of the projector for display of available data to review and establish new "short" parcels of interest priority list.

**Downtown Master Plan OSRC action items:**

The Planning Board has requested our committee give them input and an update on two actions listed for our activity on Downtown Master Plan. The two items are the

promotion of local Ecotourism to supplement tourist industry, and conduct a town sign review and improvement to support the town open spaces, attractions and structures.

PV was not able attend this meeting but supplied written thoughts on the items. The members thought using his notes or a mildly edited version of them would be a good response to the planning board.

The summary of tonight's discussion follows. There may be some ecotourism opportunities on Cape Ann. Examples discussed were kayaking from Granite Pier with overnight camping on Thatcher's Island, Dogtown hiking and rock climbing. But it would seem that the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce would be the center of this type of promotion. When they were contacted some years ago, they didn't feel this was something to be promoted for the area. They thought it had very low public interest and no gain to the local business community. We noted that hiking, kayaking, camping are all individually promoted now on the CACCC web site. These are activities that may fall under ecotourism, and better promotion may be more of an issue of how things are classified and marketed. Our committee felt this is not an OSRC activity, likely it is typically more a private sector activity; and if progress is to happen, it needs to come from other sources than OSRC members.

Discussing the reviewing of the signs - generally everyone thought they could be much improved in Rockport, all though approaches could be very different. The first question was, is there any money to do anything? A full review would seem to require many removed, replaced or new signs. Second it seems the majority of areas that would need the signage upgrades are not open space places, but are more historic or tourist businesses in nature. Our committee saw a few areas they we could review, Millbrook Meadow, Headlands, and Old Garden Path. SC offered to be involved as support person with that work. But the committee thought we could be a contributing group and this overall project should be led by a more appropriate town group.

#### **Future Meeting Dates and Topics:**

Next meeting: 10 Nov. 2014 continue Projection and Discussion of Section 5A Private parcels at Town Hall Annex

**Motion to Adjourn:** 9:00PM LN motioned to adjourn, SC seconded. Vote passed 3/0

These minutes prepared by LN