

**Approved Minutes of the OS&R Committee Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2014, 2013 at 7:30 PM
Rockport Public Library**

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

Members not in attendance: Peter Van Demark (PV),

7:30PM Meeting called to order

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by LN and seconded by SC to approve the Dec 9, 2013 meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

New Member:

Matt Cegelis from the ROW committee has been approved by the BOS for membership to OSRC.

Open Discussion:

A new no trespass sign and gate was questioned on Lanes Farm Way. This is a private way servicing many parcels with a variety of owners including Essex Greenbelt land. The information was forwarded to the Right of Ways committee.

Land Protection Activities:

The state has required the land previously designated as not developable must now be considered developable unless it is proven not to be. This requires going through a process including Board of Assessors, Planning Board and ConCom showing that it is not developable land. The new developable designation has increased the land valuation and tax to be paid by about ten times. A typical "wood lot" yearly's tax due may have been \$50 is now \$500. This has caused activity with some owners including considering donating land to town.

OSR Plan Review:

PV created and circulated the plan sections that have been updated. The section leaders have reviewed their sections. Whats done looks good but a few things are left to be worked on an added. These include comments on invasive plants and removal work; wildlife corridors, Sediment study at Long and Cape Hedge beaches and marsh, and add as a public land the parcel at end of South St. We are near completing with this work and next meeting will discuss how to approach action item and high interest lots update

GIS and Trail Mapping:

MC distributed south woods trail map that can be printed by reading a QR block found along trail in South Woods.

Cape Ann Trails is working with CATA to developing a bus route map with designating stops around the Cape for hiking at natural areas. In Rockport, Waring Fields and Halibut Point are included.

It was noted by committee that many areas of town the DPW has replaced the watershed gate "no trespassing signs" with more hiker friendly "no authorized vehicles" signs.

Future Meeting Dates and Topics:

10 Feb 2014 meeting: Continue Plan update. Establish schedule on updating action list and properties of high interest

10 March 2014 meeting:

Motion to Adjourn:

8:45PM LN motioned to adjourn, SC seconded. Vote passed 4/0.

These minutes prepared by LN