



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP AND POLICIES WORK GROUP

May 3, 2023

4:30 P.M.

Zoom

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

1. Adoption of March 1, 2023 Minutes
2. Homegrown National Park co-branding update
3. Discussion on Belden Forest Hemlocks
4. Discussion on Traprock Ridgeline Protection
5. Discussion on an Ecological Study
6. Discussion on Meeting Calendar
7. Other Business

Adjournment

Open Space Stewardship & Policies Work Group
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
4:30 PM- Via Zoom Video Conference
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

PRESENT: Wendy Mackstutis, Margery Winters, Karyn Cordner, and Susan Masino

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Tyburski, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation was also in attendance.

Call to Order

Ms. Winters called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 7, 2022 Open Space subcommittee workgroup meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

2. Discussion on Open Space Budget Items

Ms. Masino commented that it would be nice to have an intern to help get the invasive program and ranger program off the ground as well as some educational events. She stated the Dark Sky Initiative person in Connecticut would be willing to do a session. Simsbury's former Animal Control Officer would also be willing to do an educational session related to bears. She is not sure if they are too late to get items into the budget. Mr. Tyburski stated he didn't get any templates or information back to include in his budget related to these items. His understanding was that these budget requests would be related to the ARPA funding. He stated that the Town did include two dam restorations. Mr. Tyburski stated that if they could get something together before next Saturday when they have the public workshop, it still could be considered.

Ms. Masino stated she spoke to Mr. Allen who does invasive removal about the sequence of stuff and she got the estimates per acre. She stated it is not easy to get an estimate for a biodiversity study and welcomed any ideas. Mr. Tyburski stated that Sally Reager reached out to him and they may have some grant money available for invasive removal that they helped Avon and Farmington out with. They have a contractor who was going to look at some places near Curtiss Park and Tariffville Park, he believes it was bamboo they were worried about over there. They are going to get back to him with a quote then he would apply for the grant to them for that amount. Ms. Masino stated she thinks it is matching grant money.

Ms. Winters stated she is trying to get information on the Landscape Conservation Program that the Land Trust is using which allows for the collection of all information related to a particular property. Ms. Masino commented that an intern would also be useful for this type of thing to assist in the collecting of information.

3. Discussion on Invasive Plants Item for Open Space Website

Ms. Winters discussed the information she obtained from Penn State on Invasives including why these types of plants are a problem. Additional information from UCONN and Audubon was also discussed.

Ms. Winters asked if they wanted to discuss the presentation before the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Tyburski stated the presentation is March 27th and the Town Manager will need the presentation slides in advance. Ms. Masino discussed the topics to be presented such as co-branding (light pollution will be a Zoning topic). Mr. Tyburski suggested that the mowing policy be kept as a departmental policy versus a Town policy since some Town properties belong to the Board of Education.

4. Discussion on Items for April Meeting of Open Space Committee

Ms. Masino stated she would like to add “follow-up from the Board of Selectmen Meeting”. She also wants to discuss launching the co-branding, the budget update, light pollution (she wants to speak to Mr. Roy first). Ms. Winters stated that the Conservation Commission agreed that they would be sending a letter to Zoning for their signatures and would be sending the regulations for Dark Sky to try to move that forward.

5. Other Business

Ms. Masino shared that she is presenting on invasives at the Avon library tonight. She also wanted to advertise on the pollinator series, the next one is tomorrow night at the Simsbury library. She is also having a five-part series on beaver pond wildlife at Real Art Ways.

Mr. Tyburski stated he will forward the April agenda items to Mr. Fitzgerald.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor
Committee Clerk