

**Open Space Stewardship & Policies Work Group**  
**Wednesday, December 7, 2022**  
**4:30 PM- Via Zoom Video Conference**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

**PRESENT:** Margery Winters, Kelly Kearney, 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

Mr. Tyburski shared regarding the recent complaints of the odor on Hoskins, stating that it was due to the weather and chicken manure being spread. Ms. Winters stated she will do some research regarding timing and manure application.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 2, 2022 Open Space subcommittee workgroup meeting were accepted.

**2. Discussion on Website Updates and Topics**

Ms. Masino and Mr. Tyburski will schedule a meeting to discuss the website updates. Ms. Winters stated she found information on Weston's website regarding dark skies. She stated that we can have a nice write up on it based on Weston's and then can send a letter to Zoning to have them take a look at it.

**3. Discussion on Native Plant Policy**

Ms. Winters stated she would like to get this policy to Conservation and the BOS. For the Board of Selectmen they would need a policy recommendation for the Town to plant native plants. Ms. Masino suggested it be put on the agenda for the full Committee meeting in January. The process of presenting policies to the Board of Selectmen was discussed.

**4. Discussion on Meadow Mowing Policy**

Ms. Winters stated the policy simply identifies which meadows are pollinator and which are grassland. She will forward to Mr. Tyburski to send along to the full Committee.

**5. Discussion on Open Space Budget Items and Presentation of Budget Priorities**

Ms. Masino stated that she looked into invasive plant remediation. She spoke to Mr. Allen at Invasive Plant Services and obtained a lot of information, a rough estimate would be between \$1,000-\$5,000 per acre. She stated it would be good if it was a multi-year budgeting. She thought 25k-50k a year for 3-5 years would be a good amount and then they could create a strategic plan created around that amount. Ms. Masino asked if there was an amount that has less red tape. Mr. Tyburski stated under 10k as it

wouldn't need to go out to bid. Ms. Masino stated it also might be a good summer opportunity for students. She also wanted the work group's approval to pursue putting together informational events with possible topics: bears, dark skies, invasive plants. She asked if she needed to put something in the budget for these events. Mr. Tyburski stated if there will be a cost associated with these events he can forward her a service improvement proposal. The Town Manager would then go through them and decide which ones she wants to include in her budget.

**6. Discussion on Items for January Meeting of Open Space Committee**

The workgroup decided that the Native Plant policy, Meadow Mowing policy, Dark Skies, and Trap Rock Ridge could all go to the full committee.

Ms. Masino shared that there is an accessible event on Saturday in Hartford with Eastern White Pines followed by a multi-sensory reception and movie, The Tree Rooted in American History. It is all free and co-sponsored by the CT Valley Garden Club.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor  
Committee Clerk