

## **Open Space Stewardship & Policies Work Group**

**Wednesday, July 6, 2022**

**4:30 PM- Via Zoom Video Conference**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

**PRESENT:** Margery Winters, Karen Cordner and Susan Masino

**ALSO PRESENT:** Tom Tyburski, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation and Tom Fitzgerald, Management Specialist were 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 April 6, 2022 Open Space subcommittee workgroup meeting were accepted.

Ms. Cordner asked if there was any update on the installation of the kestrel falcon boxes. Mr. Tyburski shared that the falcon boxes did get installed, he stated you can see if from Hoskins Road. They have also installed some bluebird boxes out there as well. Mr. Beach said he will have someone monitoring the boxes.

#### **2. Meeting Format-** nothing discussed.

#### **3. Open Space Website Updates and Opportunities**

Ms. Masino questioned if Mr. Tyburski's new intern would be able to assist with the website. Mr. Tyburski stated that she just started a week ago so he hasn't had the chance to meet with her yet.

Ms. Masino went through her slideshow of suggested edits, additions and deletions. Open Space committee members need to be updated to include Ms. Cordner. She discussed the sidebar menu items that can be deleted such as the Management Plan for Ethel Walker, Old Bridge Road Recommendation/Submissions. She suggested the menu items left be:

- Parks and Open Space Master Plan
- Forrest Stewardship Presentation
- Inventory of Town Owned Open Space
- Meadowood Conservation

Ms. Masino also suggested the following items be added:

- Information for Residents on Wildlife and Pollinators
- Natural Stewardship Policy
- Agricultural Land and Lease Policy
- Tree Removal Policies on Public and Private Land

- Plan of Conservation and Development
- Educational Forums
- Invasives
- Mission

Ms. Corder suggested information be available about the “No Mow” policy as well as volunteer opportunities.

Mr. Tyburski suggested under news and announcements perhaps training opportunities and volunteer opportunities could be listed. He thought it would be helpful if he had a quick meeting with the new intern and Ms. Masino to go over the proposed website changes.

Ms. Corder said she would be happy to write a section about light pollution, she can research it and prepare a draft. She asked if there were other locations in Town besides the library where the pollinator pathways have planted native pollinators. Mr. Tyburski shared that there are maps on the local pollinator website that shows the locations including Memorial Park, Simsbury Farms and the Iron Horse median will also be done later this summer or early fall.

The dark sky initiative was discussed. Ms. Masino shared what she put together, links to the dark skies info sheets will be added. Ms. Winters suggested the information be broken up into sections or bullet points so people are more likely to read it. Ms. Corder shared that she felt the information provided was crisp and short and loves what Ms. Masino put together.

Ms. Masino stated that she also solicited on the Land Trust Listserv if people had policies on encroachment or dumping. Mr. Tyburski stated there is a Town policy on encroachment. Encroachment vs. dumping was discussed. Ms. Masino stated she is going to look through the Town’s other codes and ordinances to see what others they might want on their website.

Ms. Winters stated she ran the native plant policy by the conservation commission, they had some suggestions so she wants to send those back out to the workgroup. Mr. Tyburski mentioned that there may have already been some work done on a native policy. Ms. Winters asked if he could follow-up to see if the BOS have adopted a policy or where it stands.

Ms. Masino asked if the workgroup was able to have a link where they are all able to view and edit the same document. Mr. Tyburski will check on that. Ms. Winters inquired about their prior discussion regarding an agricultural RFP subcommittee, Mr. Tyburski stated that there were no issues with it this year because there was only a single bidder per property. He also stated it would be helpful if they could finalize the mow schedule before fall. Ms. Winters asked if Mr. Tyburski could provide a map of where the various meadows are and their sizes.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor  
Committee Clerk