

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

**Wednesday, September 1, 2021**

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

**PRESENT:** Margery Winters and Susan Masino

**ALSO PRESENT:** Tom Tyburski, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation and Zoning Compliance Officer, Tom Hazel, and Tom Fitzgerald, Management Specialist were also in attendance.

### **Call to Order**

Ms. Winters called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 3, 2021 Open Space subcommittee workgroup meeting were accepted.

#### **2. Draft Open Space Acquisition Policy**

Ms. Masino recommended that they add a mission statement and change the current mission statement to their “goals”. She stated that she compiled various mission statements from other open space commissions and cobbled a new mission statement together which she shared with the Committee. Mr. Hazel stated he could add something into the mission so that it could get reviewed by the full committee. Ms. Masino stated that she feels that the current mission applies to those goals that are in the 15 goals that are below the criteria. Mr. Hazel stated that he agrees that changing that one word will make a difference.

Mr. Hazel stated the next area they wanted to discuss was the examples given in parenthesis for ‘active’ recreation. He stated that these aren’t all the examples of active/passive recreation it’s just giving a general feel. The workgroup passed this along to the full committee as they felt it was okay.

Mr. Hazel stated that on the last page under ‘objectives of preserving open space’ they wanted to clarify that the bullet list was in no particular order so he added that language. In bullet nine he added in ‘provide sites for active recreation’ because a word was missing. This document will be passed to the full committee at the next meeting.

#### **3. Model Agriculture Lease RFP**

Ms. Masino stated that she was able to get feedback from a farmer and also spoke to Will from Farmlink and she will be reaching out to the soil scientist in the area. The farmer she spoke with is not a farmer that rents land however one of his suggestions matched that of Farmlink’s. They suggested putting the more detailed information in an appendix. Will also suggested if they want to prioritize but not mandate, organic for example, put that information up front in the rfp so that farmers know what is expected. Annual soil testing was discussed and Ms. Masino suggested language be added regarding a potential waiver as she doesn’t want to make their documents too rigid. Ms. Masino stated that there are specifics listed for having a farm stand but she doesn’t want to give the impression that all of their properties meet the specifics of the farm stand requirements and suggested that be added into the appendix as well. Mr. Hazel suggested that the farmstand criteria guide them to the zoning regulations. The terms of the

lease were discussed and Mr. Hazel suggested that the lease document state they have the right to terminate. It was suggested that satisfactory vs. unsatisfactory performance be defined for purposes of the length of the lease. Mr. Hazel suggested that take the current lease, make any changes they feel necessary and then run it by the Town's attorney. Mr. Tyburski stated he didn't think there was much on the RFP other than the extension language, the contact information on page one needs to be updated, he also stated he thinks it is a good idea to ask for references. Ms. Winters suggested the agricultural land policies be added as an appendix. The terms of the rolling five year lease were discussed, it was decided not to start the rolling lease at year two or three due to the fact that the farmer may have a five year plan and they aren't going to put in the work not knowing if they are going to get the five year rolling lease.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor  
Committee Clerk