

ROCKLAND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING 3.18.25, 6:30 p.m., LOUNGE , TOWN OFFICES

Attending: Donald Cann, Chair; Mike Bromberg, Vice-Chair, Melanie Ritsonmonks, Rick Snee, Pam Titus, Kathy Kirby

The Committee welcomed new member, Melanie Ritsonmonks. Mr. Cann advised that Mr. Anderson is unavailable for medical reasons. Ms. Titus moved, seconded by Mr. Bromberg for approval of the minutes of the 2/24/25 meeting. Voted unanimously. Mr. Cann presented a draft of a request to the Chair of the Select Board to meet with the Committee.

Mr. Cann advised that the Town Administrator called regarding a line item request of \$30,000.00 for the upcoming renewal of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Town Planner, Allyson Quinn, advised that the Commonwealth will provide \$20,000.00 for an Open Space and Housing Production Plan as long as those funds are expended by 7/1/25. The current deadline for submission of the finalized plan is 7/25/25, however, the Department of Conservation and Recreation will extend the current plan to 12/31/25 for purposes of application for grants and the like. Ms. Quinn has also requested \$20,000.00 from MAPC, but has not heard yet about those monies. She was to attend the Select Board meeting this evening to discuss the formation and composition of the committee to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Citizen Joe Reis inquired as to whether parks are included in the plan and he was advised that they are by State definition. Ms. Quinn said that the developer of 1119 Union Street was to appear tonight before the ZBA to obtain permission to construct an access road from Union Street to the property it hopes to develop. Mr. Grady, the developer's engineer spoke with Ms. Quinn about whether the Town might be interest in the gift several parcels from the project property. Mr. Bromberg asked whether that project could be permitted without approval of Natural Heritage and Ms. Quinn advised that it could not.

Mr. Bromberg discussed three "owner unknown" parcels off Beech Street, near the McCarthy Farm that might link to Camp Carleton and the open space behind the condominium development on Standpipe Drive. Mr. MacFaden of Wildlands Trust noted that it may be best to do a town-wide survey of such parcels and present them as a package for Town Meeting approval in the future. Mr. Bromberg and Ms. Titus agreed to work on this project. Ms. Titus advised that there has been no further word on the five parcels that were approved years ago, but not recorded.

Regarding the amenities plan at Union Point, the Committee was advised that the Park Department is having a meeting 3/19/25. It was noted that Mr. O'Loughlin, the Select Board liaison to the Open Space Committee instructed the Committee to give the Select Board a list of desired amenities. Members of the Park Department and the OSC discussed this matter on 2/24/25. Mr. Bromberg inquired about any proposed legislative changes for the SWNAS development. It was agreed that contacting State Representatives about this might be the best source of information.

Mr. Cann noted the upcoming Town cleanup and suggested a team from the committee work on the Rail Trail. Joe Reis discussed the problem of dumping of household waste on the trail. He also said that kiosks are ordered for trail locations in Town. Mr. Cann said that the Town Administrator advised an appraisal of Camp Carleton has been requested.