

ROCKLAND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING 4.24.25 6:30 pm, LOWER MEETING ROOM, Town Offices
Attending: Donald Cann, Chair; Mike Bromberg, Vice-Chair; Melanie Ritson-Monks, Rick Snee, Pam Titus, Kathy Kirby

Mr. Cann opened the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of the 3/18/25 meeting was made by Ms. Titus, seconded by Ms. Ritson-Monks, voted unanimously.

Ms. Ritson-Monks discussed plans for the Town cleanup, now Sunday, 4/27. She will bring the Town Forest and Bill Delahunt Parkway to Ms. Blaney's attention, per Mr. Cann's request. The committee thanked her for her work organizing and publicizing the event. Citizen Linda Ellis noted that John Dunn Drive needs attention in the cleanup.

Mr. Bromberg noted that there is a hole in the pavement of the rail trail near the Hanover line. He has contacted Mr. Taylor of the Highway Department about its repair and will do so again.

Mr. Cann discussed Article 16 of the Town Warrant, authorizing \$30,000 to update the OSRP, presented by the Select Board, Finance Committee and the OSC. Mr. Snee will endorse the article at Town Meeting on behalf of the OSC. This money may not be necessary if the Town Planner is successful in obtaining grant money from MAPC or other agencies. Ms. Kirby stated that Ms. Quinn should explain this at Town Meeting as the committee does not have the authority to deal with agencies.

Ms. Titus and Mr. Bromberg presented their extensive work done to identify Owner Unknown properties, many landlocked wetlands, but some upland, for possible acquisition by the Town under the state's Land of Low Value program. It was agreed that prioritizing potential acquisitions by identifying locations near existing open spaces in Rockland and neighboring communities would be beneficial. It was also agreed that submitting a request for all such properties to Town Meeting to avoid repeated requests of the electorate, is the best initial approach. The committee will consider tax title takings at a future meeting. Ms. Titus advised that Ms. Bjorgaard, Assistant Town Administrator, has had no further communication from Mr. Galvin regarding unrecorded gifts of land.

Mr. Bromberg advised that, on 3/24/25, he communicated with the committee's Select Board liaison, Mr. O'Loughlin, regarding meeting with the Parks Department about amenities needed at the SWNAS and asking for information about any proposed legislative changes affect the base property. He has not received a response. Mr. O'Loughlin, on 9/19/24, instructed the committee to create an amenities plan for the base and give it to him to bring to the Select Board. Mr. Bromberg met with and offered his help to the Parks Department regarding crafting an inventory of needs for fields and parks.

Mr. Snee offered to work on publicizing the work of the committee through social media, with links to other resources and sites of interest with committee approval. Mr. Snee also offered to work on creating a new logo. The committee thanked him for his work.

The committee discussed Select Board Chair Needham's 3/21/25 response to Mr. Cann's 3/20/25 request for a meeting with the Select Board to discuss questions never answered which were to have

been the subject of a public meeting 9/17/24, which did not occur. It was suggested that the committee continue to ask the Select Board to attend a meeting. Ms. Ellis thanked the committee for its work.