



TOWN OF ACTON
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes MODIFIED
May 3rd, 2024

7:30 am VIRTUAL and In Person

Acton Town Hall Room 126, 472 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720

Committee Members Present: Karen O'Neill (Chairing Meeting Co-Chair, Full Member), Brandon Comstock (Full Member), David Martin (Select Board Liaison), Bettina Abe (Associate Member), Matt Mostoller (Full Member, AWD)

Committee Members Absent: Terry Maitland (Co-Chair), Michaela Moran (Planning Board Liaison)

Non-Committee Members present: Susan Mitchell-Hardt (ACT), David Mitchell-Hardt (ACT), Alexander Wahlstrom (AWD), Ian Bergemann (Land Stewardship Coordinator), Jody Harris (ACT)

- I. Meeting is opened by Karen O'Neill (Chairperson) at 7:33 am.
- II. Review of minutes from OSC meeting on April 5th, 2024 postponed til June 7th, 2024.
- III. Status of property Conservation Restrictions
 - a. Ian provided an update about the Anderson CR. Fence issue is actively being resolved. Plot plan with parking lot is not prepared yet. Continuing to seek out bounds. A missing recorded vote was identified and is actively being worked through with the Select Board.
 - b. Ian also mentioned 38 Piper Rd (4 acres) will be gifted to the Town of Acton for conservation at the upcoming town meeting.
 - c. Susan mentioned that 4 Piper Ln's CR is currently delayed until we make more progress on the Anderson CR. The parcel has similar issues to be resolved.
- IV. Town Meeting/Moritz/OSRP
 - a. Karen asked David Martin if the OSC had any updates about Town Meeting regarding the Moritz property. David answered that it is not on this Town Meeting, but talks will continue between the Town and the property owner (and attorney) after Town Meeting. Karen asked about any updates or comments. Jody mentioned that they had two work days for a viewing trail around the property. It is ready to use when it becomes public property. An abutter is concerned about the trail's proximity to their property. Jody spoke with the resident and let them know the actual trail's position is not yet determined. Jody reiterated that again the trail is flagged with tape and is not accessible to the public. Susan also reiterated this again that the land is not open to the public and is not safe to visit in its current condition.
 - b. David Martin added that the Open Space and Recreation Plan was submitted and conditionally approved. This allows the Town to apply to grants which required the OSRP.
- V. Review grant opportunities Discuss fundraising
 - a. Karen asked about grants. Brandon mentioned that OSC submitted a letter to a call for public comments on how the state regulates trail projects within a wetland. Brandon also mentioned the MVP deadline. Ian answered that the MVP grant had requirements that we did not have for this round of applications. Ian shifted to focus on the LAND grant. Brandon mentioned the in-person session and the online session. Ian updated that we we're not chosen for the Acres of America grant. Ian did mention that the MVP grant might be possible for next year. Brandon said that the LAND grant and the Conservation Partnership Grant might be applied to for the same properties.

- b. David Martin mentioned that next Tuesday at Town Meeting we will be doing the Zoning Articles and that if the MBTA Zoning does not pass, we may lose any grant funding from the State. He also updated that the override passed in the general election.
- VI. OSRP Review
 - a. Karen asked if the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan is accessible online. Ian answered it is available online currently.
- VII. Updates on Donald Or Triangle Farm Properties
 - a. No updates for Triangle or Donald.
 - b. Matt had an update about an 18-acre property off Knox Trail. AWD will be closing on the property this summer.
 - c. Matt mentioned the 549 Main St CR is not available yet. The CR will be available through the registry of deeds. There will be a website created for the property as well. Alex from AWD mentioned the website is already up. The CR is almost finished.
- VIII. Comments/Concerns/Announcements:
- IX. The next meeting is Friday, June 7th, 2024 at 7:30 am and will also be hybrid.
- X. Bettina motioned, Karen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 am. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Bergemann, Land Stewardship Coordinator, Town of Acton