

Town of Eastham
Open Space Committee Minutes

April 28, 2022

Members present: Joanna Buffington, vice chair; Peter Wade; Kait Logan; Saul Fisher, acting Scribe:

The meeting was called to order at 3:05

Minutes of the March 16th meeting were submitted by Joanna Buffington and accepted without correction.

Conservation Fund

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee both joined in rejecting our proposal to develop a Conservation Fund. The primary objection was that we might have the opportunity to buy property without approval of town meeting. Our committee discussed this problem and options as to how to manage the Town administration's lack of support for establishing our proposed Conservation Fund.

Options Considered:

- Create a flyer clarifying our position yet again
- Write letters to the local newspapers explaining our position.

The topic was closed without coming to any clear direction about an action plan. We hope to become an active part of any process involved in acquiring open space. We also hope to gain a seat at the table to bring creative ideas for development that serve the needs of our community: preserving endangered open space and providing affordable housing. Smart development can serve both of those needs.

Selectboard and Administrative update

No member of either the select board or the administration were present for our meeting, so this this topic was postponed for next meeting.

Higgins Property

There is no official entrance to the property. People have been parking on Town property but must trespass private property to get to the Higgins' area. We may need to go to Town Council for consultation on parking space and the need to cross private property to get to the trail. The wording for the sign has been decided upon and the sign is being made smaller.

Strategic Plan

Frances will meet Lauren Barker to discuss our goals under the Strategic Plan.

Land Management Plan

Shana is working this project.

Old Business

A neighbor shared with Joanna that the parcels on Great Pond at 15/25 Beehive Rd are under contract with the abutters on Kingsbury Beach Road. The buyers reportedly wish to keep it from being developed. Joanna hopes to talk with them about long term protection options once the sale is complete.

New Business

- Kate reported how much she appreciated the marsh clean up. She would love to coordinate volunteers for cleanup activities.
- Saul strongly suggested that our Committee write a letter in response Finance committee, the Selectmen, and the Administration withdrawing their support for our warrant. Saul will write a letter for the Committee to discuss at our next meeting.

Next Meeting

- Affordable housing May 18th 2:00
- Open Space Committee May 18th 3:00

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16

Respectfully Submitted,
Saul Fisher, Acting Scribe