

Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

James White Memorial Library

May 3, 2023

In Attendance:

Amanda Barlow: Co-Chairperson

Brian Almeida: Co-Chairperson

Brian Miller

Ellen Lima

Jeffrey Amaral

Linda Fournier

Lynn Furtado: Committee Clerk

FREETOWN CLERK
REC'D JAN 16 2024 AM 9:57

Call To Order

Amanda called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm

Acceptance of meeting minutes from the April meeting

Linda made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 5th's meeting. Brian M seconded the motion.

Open Space Plan Status Update:

There has been no update from SRPEDD. Bill has officially retired from his role at SRPEDD, but has been in touch with Jeff and said he will still be around until the Freetown Open Space Plan gets approved. Victoria and Bill also communicate and they will let each other know if they hear anything from the state.

Selectman Meeting Recap

Brian A. Jeff and Amanda went to the Selectman meeting on April 18th. They reported that Jared Zager is now the Board of Parks Commissioner. He will be working with all of the sports leagues in town to create a better system for the sports fields. Rather than having a lease (that lasts for 20 years) they will now be licensing the fields, which will be better for all of the teams. Jeff's new role is to be in charge of the boat ramp and beach. The Beach gate is now open for the season and won't be closed until the end of the season. He is also hiring some new parking attendants for the Boat ramp.

Review of previous action items

- Strawberry Festival

We have permission to have a table at the strawberry festival from the BOS. They just want us to have a letter from the Committee and the Tuesday Club of Assonet, saying that we are welcome to have a table. Linda has talked to the president of the Tuesday Club and we have a table at the strawberry festival on June 18th. Brian A. said he will be a 6-foot table and a pop-up tent. Each member will bring their own chair. The event is from 11-4 pm and Brian A will be there at 10:30 to set up. Ellen from the Tuesday Club provided the Open Space and

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Recreation Advisory Committee with a letter of support to be at the Strawberry Festival.

- Brochures

The Brochures will be cut in half to remove the outdated information and we will use the brochures at the strawberry festival.

Earth Day Recap

Many people participated in the cleanup. In addition, the kid's activities in the library were fun and engaging. Next year we should be a partner in the event and support.

Public Input

There was no public input during this meeting.

“Round Table” committee discussion

Jeff met with the cultural council; they are looking for support with resources. They will be having an art show and a car show in the next few months. Jeff will connect with their chair so that we can start an amazing partnership

Ellen informed the team that the town would be having the Fourth of July parade this year. She also talked about how the Porter Pasture needs to be cleaned up and suggested it be a spot to clean up for earth day next year.

Brian M. brought up the point that we need to be a regular committee rather than an advisory committee.

Linda suggests that we keep on trucking and we will get some people to notice us and join our team.

Brian A. stated that one of our action items on the Open Space Plan is to become a Park and Recreation Committee and that we need to start to do research on how to take the next step.

What are the avenues and state laws about how to create a Park and Rec committee, We need to start our research.

It was also suggested that we need to start networking and partnering with other committees and councils throughout the town.

Meeting Wrap Up, Assignment of action items

- Committee members will email the chairs to sign up for the strawberry festival about time slots
- Amanda will ask Victoria if we can get a map of all the open space in town
- Jeff will update us about the Tuesday Club meeting he will attend
- Jeff will also talk to Jeannine about the Cultural Council

Next Meeting: June 7th

Adjournment: Linda made the motion to adjourn, Brian M seconded the motion and the meeting ended at 8:22 pm

List of Documents/Exhibits used by the OSRAC during this meeting

- Agenda
- Letter of Support from The Tuesday Club