

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2022 FEB 15 PM 2:07

Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Police Station Community Room  
September 29, 2021 @ 6:30pm

In Attendance:

Amanda Barlow- Vice-Chairperson  
Brian Almeida  
Brian Miller  
Carlos Lopes  
Jeffery Amaral- Committee Chairperson  
Lynn Furtado- Committee Clerk  
Lu-Ann Souza- Executive Assistant  
Deb Pettey- Interim Town Administrator  
Ellen Lima

Call to Order

Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 6:33 by Brian Almeida and second by Carlos Lopes.

Review agenda

Jeff Amaral, committee chair, went through the agenda for the meeting. This includes welcoming the new interim town administrator, and open discussion regarding the Open space plan and last meeting events.

Approval of minutes

Brian Almeida made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting, it was seconded by Amanda Barlow, the vote was unanimous.

Welcome and comment from our new Interim town administrator, Deb Pettey

Jeff welcomed our new interim town administrator, Deb Pettey. Deb shared with the committee that she has a development background, and has worked on creating an open space plan before with the town of Hanson. While she was working in Hanson, she has worked with Bill Napolitan on a few projects and she said that he is a great resource. Deb also stated that right now her goal is to get acclimated to the town first and learn everything she can, and then one of her main goals is to get grants for the town. She also stated that since she has worked on an open space plan before she might have some resources that she will happily share.

- The committee went through introductions to Deb.

Open Discussion: Follow up on Discussion from the last meeting & what events may be becoming up that we should be sharing.

The group talked to Deb about how the first step of the SRPEDD was to send out a town survey but only came back with few responses, only about 1% of the town population. Deb stated that 1% is the typical response from the town. Almost all of the committee members want to send out a new survey, however, Lynn brought up that at our last meeting Bill said that we could not send out another survey.

Deb suggested that we reach out to Bill and see where he is at in the process of the Open Space Plan. Deb also stated that when she helped finish the other Open Space Plan she assisted with the ADA section. She also stated the Open Space Plan will help the town create the Master Plan which will include the Open Space Plan, the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) plan. All of these plans will give the town more access to grants.

Brian Miller brought up the fact that the town of Freetown is not a part of the CPA (Community Preservation Act) and that would have been away we could have gotten grants.

The committee went around the table and gave their thoughts and ideas from the discussion from the last meeting with Bill.

- Amanda shared that it was helpful that Bill came and gave us all of these ideas but we need to stay focus. Get big things done, and collaborate with other committees/commissions. We need to have a Big pictures mindset, but still, get things done and let the town know we are around. Amanda also added that she was unaware of any additional town events.
- Carlos stated that Bill came in with grand ideas and the sky is the limit. He suggests we look into what the other towns have done and how they used their open town plan. He also brought up how the Freetown flash went very well for the softball game, with about 400 people in attendance.
- Brian Almeida said that Bill was great to meet and talk to. But we need to know what the next steps are and how to move forward. He is unaware of any town events, the harvest festival came and gone.
- Lynn added that we have a lot of work ahead of us and that we need to organize who we are going to partner with and let the town know what we are doing.
- Jeff said that Bill said that we need to focus on 'who owns this plan' whether it's the open space committee, planning board, or the conservation commission. He also shared that Bill sent Lu-Ann three sections of the Open space plan, sections 7, 8&9.
- Deb added that the first thing we need to do is identify all of the properties that will be included in this plan.

- We first had a list of properties, but slowly we took items and places off of our list due to having so many locations and not enough guidance. We will get a new list of properties.
- Ellen shared that she has written grants before for other committees and organizations she has worked with in the past. She also mentioned that the Freetown Flash works in the Azores. She also shared a few events that are happening within the town including the Tuesday club selling red hearts, Drive-thru BBQ, and the November calendar raffle.

#### Open Discussion- planning for 'Meet the OSRAC'

The committee discussed that it might be too soon to have a meeting where we invite the community as well as the committee/commissions that we are going to be partnering with. We need to get a plan and know what we are going to discuss before we invite anyone to our meeting. We want to be in charge of the meeting and not have it taken over by other committees. Lynn has created a pamphlet and a handout for when we do have a 'meet the OSRAC night' or an info table. Lynn will send the pamphlet and handout to Jeff once she finishes the design. Ellen suggested that we have a table at the next special town meeting which is in two weeks. It was discussed that we won't have anything completed in time to hand out at the meeting, we will also have to check with the town clerk.

It was also suggested that we invite the conservation committee, as well as the planning board chairs to our next meeting as they have already done some work on the Open Space Plan.

#### Open Discussion- Creating an Open Space Plan

Bill has sent Lu-Ann a few of the sections of the Open Space Plan. Bill has asked us to look and work on sections 7, 8, and 9. The committee looked through section 7 quickly and it was suggested for the committee members to read through section 7 and we will go through it next meeting. Jeff will send us all Section 7 of the open space plan, for us to review for the next meeting. Lu-Ann will follow up with SRPEDD regarding the Open Space Grant that needs an extension.

#### Review of Open Action Items

Carlos states that there is no update on the Board of Selectman Boat Ramp/ Beach working group as they have not met since our last meeting.

#### Comments/ Announcements

Town Hall got a working request for a clean-up on South Main st in Assonet under the RT 24 overpass. The committee took a vote and the vote was unanimous to clean up the area. More information will come.

### Thoughts and ideas

Brian Almedia asked if we could get a town email address so we can have people email us events that are happening around town to put on our calendar. It was said that we might be able to have a Gmail rather than a town account. Jeff said that it might be a slippery slope if we have an email account for our committee. People will want a response and if we don't respond quickly we might get a bad name. More logistical things need to be thought through before we get an email address.

Creating OSRAC t-shirts was also discussed. Lynn already had a design made out, and she will bring a sample for the next meeting.

### Agenda for the next meeting:

- Review and discuss section 7 of the open space plan.
- Invite the planning board/ conservation commission to our next meeting to discuss what they have worked on so far in the Open Space Plan.
- The next meeting will be on October 27th

### Motion to adjourn

Jeff asked for a motion to be made at 8:48 pm, Brian Almeida made the motion and Amanda seconded.

Minutes record by committee clerk- Lynn Furtado

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List of documents/exhibits used by OSRAC during this meeting.

Agenda

Section 7 SRPEDD open space plan.