

Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee
Police Station Community Room
March 2, 2022 @ 6:30pm

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2022 APR 13 AM 9:59
Cheryl Smith

In Attendance:

Brian Almeida

Brian Miller

Carlos Lopes

Jeffrey Amaral- Committee Chairperson

Lynn Furtado- Committee Clerk

Bill Napolitano-SRPEDD

Call to order:

Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:30

1. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from the February 2, 2022 meeting

Carlos Lopes made the motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, Brian Miller seconded the motion.

2. Review of 2022 Proposed Action Plan (Section 9 updated)

Bill will go through the action plan and updated it on an organization and consolidate it. He is so happy that we have put in so much effort and the plan is coming along. Bill is going to send Jeff some information regarding the laws and some definition about passive land and how we can get some of the items on our open space plan already checked off our list. Bill also stated that he has done a lot of background work and that he wants to write the plan with us, the people who live in this community.

It was discussed that once Bill goes through our section nine of the open space plan, we will meet in April to go over his suggestions and finalize everything. Our goals for the April meeting will be to talk about goals and objectives, potential partners (Taunton River Stewardship council, Assawasset watershed alliance), and discuss potential funding sources.

OSRAC will have to then get town buy-in. This included all of the residents, committees, and the Selectman. Plans need to take into consideration everyone young, teens, adults, and the elderly. It was discussed that we will try to have a table at the next town meeting to spread our information, and get some more town buy-in.

Bill stated that grants are coming down the pipeline soon for this fiscal year and he will send the information that is relevant to our open space plan!

We are a town with a regional perspective.

An ADA self-assessment was talked about, Bill stated that the recreation board typically does that. There are grants to get the self-assessment done and there are professional assessments that can get done using that grant.

A committee member asked Bill's opinion about how a lot of lands are under the conservation commission. He asked if that happen because there was no current Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee. There are two ways we can change some conservation commission land to open space, if its a drastic change, it needs to go through legislation, however, if this is for passive use (hiking trail) then it can probably be done within the town. It's all protected by laws.

It was asked how to get the open space plan approved by the town? Bill stated that the State required for planning board sign-off, board of selectman sign-off, conservation sign-off, etc.

After reading our list Bill suggested connecting with SERPD trails mapping as they are in the process of mapping all of the trials in the area. He also asked if we could send him the list of conservation land and open spaces so that he can update his section of the open space plan

We will need to loop in Deb and the selectman soon about our plan.

3. Open Discussion

The next step for section 9, is that we will need to consolidate the list. Bill will look through everything and give us his feedback before our meeting in April.

In the April meeting, we will review, updated, and finalize the action plan, review the marketing handouts, plan for the May meeting and discuss the Freetown Family Fun day.

During the May meeting, we will invite the stakeholders to our meeting, this included but is not limited to the historical commission, conservation commission, planning board, etc.

4. Review follow up actions with owners

The Town Beach subcommittee is on the agenda for the next selectman meeting. Carlos will report back at our next meeting.

5. Agenda Outline for April meeting

- Boat Ramp/ Beach subcommittee update
- Review of 2022 proposed action plan items
- Open space Brochure review
- Discussion of event coordination/ community calendar

6. Next Scheduled meeting April 6, 2022.

Carlos made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55, it was seconded by Brian A.

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

Agenda

Section 9 of the draft of the town of Freetown open space plan.