

Freetown Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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Date, Time and Location of Meeting:

June 16, 2021 6:30 p.m.

Freetown Police Station – Community Room

In Attendance

Chairperson – Jeffrey Amaral

Vice-Chairperson – Amanda Barlow

Brian Almeida

Carlos Lopes

Robin Roche

Brian Miller

Ellen Lima

Time Meeting was Called to Order

Chairperson Jeffrey Amaral called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Items from last meeting:

- 1.) The Board of Selectman determined this Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee would be a 9-person committee; 5 person quorum
- 2.) Accept the meeting minutes from April 27 – **Accepted by Unanimous vote**
- 3.) Accept the meeting minutes from May 12 – **Accepted by Unanimous vote**

New Business

Jeffrey Amaral distributed “Sub-Team Activity Worksheet” and began the meeting by reviewing and explaining it and its purpose. The teams of two were read aloud from the worksheet. The purpose of the worksheet and sub-teams are to prioritize properties to be addressed for improvement. Each team is to rank and prepare an idea to present to the committee at the next meeting.

Carlos Lopes and Brian Miller suggested that in the future the committee get departmental status to have more decision-making ability, rather than advisory board to the Board of Selectman. Brian Miller said that in his opinion the goal is to have a great park and recreation department for kids.

Jeffrey Amaral referred back to the worksheet and asked that the sub-teams focus on the content of ideas rather than presentation and technology. Brian Almeida proposed an excel sheet for all of the committee to have access to and the ability to update on an on-going basis. Ellen Lima and Carlos Lopes agreed with that idea. Due to quorum and posting, Jeffrey Amaral will follow-up on sharing an excel sheet or shared drive.

Brian Miller suggested that the committee focus on ideas and future goals and keeping it simple. Jeffrey Amaral said that him and Committee Clerk, Lynn Furtado (not present), would focus on

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the back-end, small details, administrative responsibilities.

Carlos Lopes said that the sub-teams would benefit from looking at the field lease agreements when ranking the properties.

Brian Miller brought up the Town Meeting held on June 7th and said that people were approaching him about the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Identify departments and department heads to establish communication with:

Jeffrey Amaral asked the group to think about what other groups in town we need to collaborate with and keep informed about the OSRAC plans and activities. Carlos Lopes suggested keeping the other town committees, the community and local fisherman and boaters. The OSRAC could post and tell other groups about the committee and what we want to accomplish.

Jeffrey Amaral posed the question of once we propose an idea, do we raise money if we do not get a budget? If the deliverable is important and the committee wants to move forward and budget doesn't cover the whole expense, can we fundraise to cover the rest of cost? Carlos Lopes summed up fundraising process, the benefits and fees. A non-profit may need to be created to get fundraising status. Amanda Barlow proposed that the OSRAC get a solid idea together and then create and execute a plan. Carlos Lopes agreed and added that we must appear as a united front. Jeffrey Amaral referred back to the worksheet and informed the group that nothing is off-limits and said if there is a property not on the list that members know about, they can add it to the list for presentation.

Ellen Lima brought up the Fireworks and Strawberry Festival and its cancellation. She said she knows in this town what works and what doesn't to get things done. Ellen pointed out that the fireworks get funded by fundraising from local private donations and by selling T-Shirts in town. Brian Miller expressed that his concern is that if OSRAC relies on fundraising that could not have longevity because eventually if people stop donating it won't be sustainable without a budget. Jeffrey Amaral and Brian Almeida suggested the committee start with step 1 of choosing a project and then move on to the next step, not jump around or ahead of ourselves.

Open Discussion

Robin Roche introduced the idea of a "hydration station" on the land next to Freetown Library, near waterfall. She described this as a place people can meet up and park to go for walks or runs or bike rides together.

Brian Miller said that he has been going by the Town Beach almost 2 times each day. He suggests that a young person be hired to sit in a chair and collect money. He also suggested there be a non-motorized launch there for things such as kayaks, instead of launching at the boat ramp. Jeffrey Amaral noted there is now an employee hired to monitor and work the Pocasset / Town Beach.

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Brian Miller added that he thinks OSRAC should prioritize a deliverable on the waterfront and take advantage of the summer and people being out. Brian Almeida said he has been watching select meetings and that the beach and ramp are brought up often and other committees are very aware of issues at these locations.

Brian Almeida suggested OSRAC set up a shared drive, drop-box or similar technology for spreadsheets, documents, pictures and other relevant pieces of information to be shared with group. General agreement from the rest of the committee members if it is allowed.

Action Items Identified:

- *Obtain clarification of quorum and laws around an "advisory committee" - how do open meeting rules apply?
- *Can we share and use technology as a tool? What are the restrictions around sharing documents and spreadsheets internally with the committee?
- *How does the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee let the community what is going on and what we are doing?
- *Can we post on Freetown social media or webpage?

Next Meeting

June 30, 2021 6:30 p.m.
Freetown Senior Center

Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Jeffrey Amaral made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. The motion was seconded by Brian Miller and approved in a unanimous vote.

Minutes Recorded by:

Vice-Chairperson Amanda Barlow