

Freetown Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

July 21st, 2021 @6:30

Police station Community Room

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK

2021 SEP-9 PM 3:59

Cheryl A. Edwards

In Attendance

Amanda Barlow- Vice Chairperson

Brian Almedia

Brian Miller

Carlos Lopes

Jeffery Amaral-Chairperson

Lynn Furtado- Clerk

Lu-ann Souza- Executive Assistant

Jared Zager- Selectman

Call to order:

Chairperson Jeff Amaral called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Jeff welcomed Lu-Ann and Jared to our meeting.

Jeff asks for a motion to accept the minutes from June 30th, accepted unanimously.

New Business

1. Jared Zeger- Thanked the committee members for volunteering to better our community.
  - a. Town Beach- Due to recent events at the town beach, a decision was made to make it a residents only beach because it was getting too much to take care of. The Police were getting a lot of phone calls and it was getting out of control. Board of selectman decided to make it only town residents. Jared mentioned that a lot of other neighboring towns have made their beaches residence only and Freetown was one of the last towns to do it. Over the past few weeks, there has been a change at the town beach. There have been some arrests and people are getting ticketed for out of towners.
  - b. As for open space- Jared stated that the goal of this committee is to advise the selectman on how to make the town more of a community. He feels like Hathaway park needs to be updated, the ball fields are looking good, but the beach can use some work. He wants guidance from the OSRAC.
    - i. Jeff noted that we have looked at all of the properties, town beach and boat ramp were the top two things. But we also talked about Hathaway park. Suggest we look at things as a whole rather than individually. Ball fields are taken care of due to the lease with Freetown Lakeville Athletic Association.

- ii. Brian M.- stated that the town beach was his main concern. However we talked a lot about Hathaway park. He asked Jared and Lu-Ann if OSRAC needs to follow the open meeting laws since they are an advisory committee and not just a committee.
    - 1. Lu-Ann answered Brian by saying the OSRAC does need to follow the open meeting laws.
  - iii. Jared- noted that this committee was made for open space not just beach and all of the open space has untapped potential.
  - iv. Brian Miller- stated that he does not like the decision about making the town beach residents only. He stated that he thinks the beach should be open for everyone or no one.
  - v. Lu-Ann shared that everyone who has had a citation or been arrested at the town beach has been from out of town.
- c. Beach and boat ramp discussion
- i. Jared stated that the Freetown police only have jurisdiction over the land and not the water. The Town of Freetown does not have any capabilities of going into the water. Lakeville and the EPA have access and they can help us, but we can't keep calling Lakeville for assistance.
  - ii. Carlos suggested that maybe down the road, as a committee we can communicate about getting a boat, the training needed and where the funding will be coming from.
  - iii. Lu-Ann reported that we have sold 27 out of town tickets since the reason started. The beach is now up to date with regulations.
  - iv. Brian M- suggested closing the beach to swimming and making it a dock and non motorized water boats.
  - v. Brian asked if we would be able to pay a lifeguard rather than a detailed officer. Lu-Ann said that the detailed officer at the beach is a temporary solution, the hope is that the officer will be phased out as needed.

## 2. Lu-Ann- Updated on Beach and Pocasset Park

- a. Proposed Beach/boat ramp Kiosk
  - i. Something is needed for the boat ramp and possibly the beach for the parking issues that have been happening. It was suggested to get a parking Kiosk.
    - 1. Multi space color Pay station- solar powered, wireless, prints out receipts, but it is expensive and it could be damaged or tagged.
    - 2. Passport- smartphone app, this is still being looked into, however there is no large kiosk attached.

- ii. Most committee members want more information before they make a suggestion.
  - b. Proposed fence
    - i. A Fence was proposed for the beach, this fence will be right where the beach starts, by the cinder blocks, in order to stop jet skis getting in by the beach.
      - 1. Carlos stated that it's not aesthetically pleasing, and Brian M suggested that the beach be extended towards the parking lot, and if we put a fence, we couldn't extend the beach.
    - ii. Table the fence for now- revisit it until the long term plan for the beach.
  - c. Cameras at the beach are also getting looked into.
3. Beach/ Boat Ramp Team/ working group.
- a. This working group would consist of Lu-Ann, Jarred and a member of the OSRAC. They will meet and discuss the beach and boat ramp. This working group is to be proactive, stay on topic and to get things taken care of at the beach and boat ramp. The OSRAC member will update the advisory committee of the things that were discussed and decided on.
    - i. Carlos Lopes, Brian Miller and Robin Roche all had put their names in for the working group prior to today's meeting.
    - ii. Jeff suggested that the decision to vote someone into the group to be tabled until Robin can be updated as to what the group was all about.
      - 1. Carlos seconded the suggestion. It was voted to be tabled.

#### Future business

- 4. 25,000 grant for bandstand-
  - a. The advisory committee will need to advice on ideas on what needs to be done
  - b. 10,000 might be earmarked for restoration.
  - c. OSRAC wants to look at the grant, and Lu-Ann said she will share once she gets a copy of it.
  - d. Subcommittee that might need to be including is the historical society
- 5. 25,000- development of open space and recreation open space grant
  - a. Lu-Ann has little information on this grant, but she will share once she gets more information.
  - b. Looks like it might be for getting surveys/ feedback from townspeople.
  - c. A marquee was brought up as an option for communication
    - i. Lu-Ann and Jared said accordededto the town's by-laws we can't have one.

Questions and Comments- OSRAC went around the table and members were able to voice their questions and Comments

6. Carlos L- said he was glad that we have some more things on our plate to discuss.
7. Brian A- would like to communicate with Lu-Ann about how we can streamline communication and update the website and how that would work.
8. Brian M.- said that he would like to see Main St become a modern day downtown with local restaurants and waterfront views.
9. Jeff- thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, it was helpful to have people from the town in on our meeting.

#### Meeting to adjourn

A motion was adjourn the meeting at 8pm was made by Brian A, the motion was seconded by Brian M and approved in a unanimous vote.

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

- Agenda
- Multi-Space Color Pay Station handout
- Passport packet