

Town of Uxbridge
Open Space Committee
21 South Main St Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569
(508) 278-8600

Minutes 7/8/2020 10:00am

Remote meeting via zoom

In attendance:

Jeffrey Brochu, Amanda Gallerani, Russell Holden, Bob Contursi, Conservation Agent Holly Jones, CMRPC staff Dani Marini

Absent: Ryan Smith

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Open Space Committee was conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

1. Discussion and review of Open Space Survey

The Discussion of the Open Space Survey included the following items:

Discussion of ways to shorten the short survey

Suggestion to eliminate the 5 rankings in favor of 3 rankings.

Suggestion to combine some parts of question 6

Tagline at top

Eliminate question 4 about expenditures

Comments about changing some questions from pre-selected answers to free-form open ended questions

Suggestion to tweak survey as surveys are returned

Question 3 about acquiring land to absorb carbon and reduce effects of climate change

Ms. Marini agreed to make all of the suggested changes.

Motion: Mr. Brochu moved that if there were no negative responses received to the next survey draft after the suggested changes are made within 72 hours the Committee will consider the survey to be approved and ready to be sent out. Mr. Contursi seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. Survey Outreach strategies

Discussion of Survey Outreach Strategies included a brainstorm of the following ideas:

Signs

- Pout Pond
- Town Hall
- Town Common
- Skate Park
- Hannaford

Laminated flyer for the bikepath and Riverbend and Trustees/Cormier woods

Email to: CMRPC FB, Uniquely Uxbridge, ConCom, Schools through superintendent, each school has a green team. Principal at high school. Senior center newsletter, COVID newsletter, fliers at Koopmans, Library FB page,

Mr. Contursi suggested publishing the list and having each person take ownership of some of the outreach. Mr. Holden suggested using a shared google doc. Mr. Contursi suggested adding a question to see "where did you hear about this survey" so we could see which outreach strategies were effective and Ms. Marini agreed to add it.

3. Workshop Planning

Workshop Planning

Discussion:

Ms. Marini summarized the idea of a workshop for Open Space Surveys and Ms. Jones recapped the discussion from the previous meeting:

Last meeting there was a suggestion for three sessions.

It was discussed to have a recap at each session.

In zoom you have the option to create "break-out rooms"

Mr. Holden asked if three might be too many but Ms. Marini suggested it could make it more accessible. Mr. Holden suggested having recaps. We could suggest having a call-in or email of thoughts at the end having it broadcast on cable.

It was agreed to try for a weeknight 6-8 on a Wednesday or Thursday.

4. ADA evaluation planning

Ms. Marini suggested getting a list from the Assessor asking for properties owned by the Conservation Commission and the Selectboard. Ms. Jones asked for clarification whether it was both the ConCom and the Selectboard. The ADA plan is likely to be done in August. The requirements for Open Space are only for properties that have improvements. There also needs to be a grievance policy and an ADA coordinator designated. Mr. Lench the building inspector is currently the ADA coordinator. The grievance policy needs to be included in the plan and goes along with the inventory. Ms. Marini notes that an individual who is a representative of the disabled community needs to be a part of that inventory. Mr. Brochu suggested doing a dry run

at Taft Memorial Park later that day. Ms. Marini clarified that items can be skipped if they're not relevant to the site. Ms. Marini asked for pictures from the site visit later that day.

5. General discussion of Open Space Plan

Presentation date was extended to September 2020 as a deliverable for the MVP II grant. August 15th could be the close of the survey, a meeting to discuss the results of the survey and incorporate into the plan could be held, the public forum could be held at the end of August, and then a couple weeks after that the plan could be done. The presentation could be for the 2nd meeting of the month for the BoS, which is the 4th week of September. The Selectboard's comments and suggestions can be incorporated before submitting to the state for approval.

Housekeeping:

Minutes were not on the agenda. Next meeting the committee will aim to approve two sets of minutes.

Next meeting will be July 22nd at 10am.

Mr. Contursi motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brochu seconded, and the motion passed 4-0-0.

Signed:



Russell Holden



Amanda Gallerani

Bob Contursi



Jeffrey Brochu

absent

Ryan Smith