

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK
June A. Keating
'23 MAR 15 10:00AM

Wednesday February 15, 2023, MEETING (Skaket Room) 9AM TOWN OF ORLEANS

Attendees: OSC Members: Lynn O'Connell, Hardie Truesdale, Christopher Keating and Stephanie Gaskill and also attending Stephen O'Grady for the OCT and Patricia Platten as observer.

- 1. Public Comment:** There was no public comment at this time.
- 2. Call to Order:** Quorum with 4 members present. Acting Chair Stephanie Gaskill called the meeting to order at 0903AM.
- 3. Approval of Minutes from the 1/17/2023 meeting:** Stephanie Gaskill moved to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes and Lynn O'Connell seconded. All four members approved the minutes.
- 4. Report from Stephanie Gaskill, Liaison to the CPC:** Stephanie delayed this discussion until the end of the meeting.
- 5. Discussion of committee members roles:** Acting Chair Stephanie Gaskill stated her willingness to take on the role of Chair until July. Hardie Truesdale nominated Stephanie Gaskill as Chair until July, 2023 Lynn O'Connell seconded. All four members voted to approve the motion. Christopher Keating volunteered to take on the role of creation and posting of meeting agenda..
- 6. Discussion of future Open Space Committee strategies :**A discussion ensued on the Open Space Plan posted on the towns website and strategies in locating and preserving land listed on this plan. Chair Stephanie Gaskill questioned a change in strategy in noting how as a committee we have been reactive and not proactive in protecting land and that many valuable properties still exist in town as potential conservation and recreational assets for the town. Christopher Keating asked if this meant we would be contacting potential landowners. Chair Stephanie Gaskill wondered if the committee identify more properties that would have recreational value as well as preservation value. This would appeal to some of the younger newcomers in town. We could target areas that have more recreational value. It was noted that the recently acquired Peck property failed to provide any recreational value (kayak access) due to the steep slope. The Chair asked Stephen O'Grady if the OCT operates in this manner. Stephen O'grady noted that the OCT has different standards on what value is placed on potential sites as far as recreation and conservation but that they would be willing to me more aggressive in a strategic way in the future. The Chair commented that with limited available property in town, what is the role of the Open Space Committee moving forward. Hardie Truesdale commented that the members should delve into the Open Space Plan to get a handle on what properties are still available. A brief discussion ensued in creating open space or recreational space out of unused parking areas or abandoned properties. Hardie Truesdale commented that any possible opportunities like this may not be in the OSC charge. Christopher Keating noted that on Nantucket he had observed the transformation of old buildings and parking lots into wonderful green spaces and historical parks. Hardie Truesdale and Lynn O'Connell brought up Boland Pond and what role the OCT has taken on there, Steven O'Grady noted that there is OCT land off Route 6A but that access is limited. Right now the OCT is creating trails behind OES in an educational collaborative with the school. The Chair then suggested to find out who made the Open space Plan and then for the members to identify and list areas of critical concern.
- 7. Status of Associate members and status of recruitment of new members:** The Chair noted that Kevin Galligan from the Select Board was not present to give the board an update on whether Associate Members for the OSC was taken up at the last Select Board meeting. It was noted that Patricia Platten was in the room observing and was a potential new member. the Chair stated that she would follow up on any updates on Associate Members being proposed to the OSC charge.
- 8. New Opportunities:** The Chair and The members discussed how we could all become more knowledgeable on financial matters and especially Grants. Steven O'Grady discussed what Grants are available and that George Meservey would be a good contact. The Chair noted that all members could

become more literate on the subject. Lynn O'Connell volunteered to look into the Grants more and that she would be contacting Steven O'Grady and Mark Robertson. All members agreed to look at the charter for the next meeting. The Chair in closing asked if anyone had seen any new opportunities listed by realtors. Finally, Hardie Truesdale asked Steven O'Grady what all the OCT activity was at OES and Boland Pond. Steven responded that the OCT property connecting Boland Pond was a bit neglected but that they were creating a contiguous trail network behind OES that they eventually hoped would connect to local businesses like the Sparrow. This is a long term vision not accepted by everyone at this time.

9. Report from Stephanie Gaskill, Liaison to the CPC: Stephanie Gaskill reported that 22 Tonset Road project had been removed from consideration due to a number of factors including the Select Board who unanimously voted not to proceed on this project. Many applicant's had been asked to reduce their monetary requests including the OSC who dropped the administrative fund request from \$15,000 to \$12,000. The Firehouse Project was also voted down by the CPC. The Chair noted that it was more of a funding issue rather than what everyone agreed was a need to maintain the property. The Historical Committee could possibly decide to go directly to the town for funding via the town meeting route for bond funding. The Veterans Memorial Park project was turned down as well only because the board thought the project needed to be refined with better preparation on the numbers. The board agreed that everyone is enthusiastic about this project once the numbers are refined and come back in the Summer and reapply. The Movable Bandstand project at Nauset Beach was approved for engineering costs. The Juniper Hill Affordable Housing Project was approved for \$20,000 of the \$100,000 that was requested by the Town of Wellfleet. The Board agreed that it is a great project but over budget at this time but that they can come back for more money at a later date. The Academy Playhouse Project request was reduced from a three to a two phase project. In conclusion on a different matter, the Chair noted that the previous Chair Robert Cunningham had decided not to be involved with the purchase of Cedar Pond as a private citizen. Stephanie also noted that Robert had updated the Open Space History to include the recent Cedar Pond acquisitions. Finally, Stephen O'Grady asked what OSC plans are moving forward on the 22 Tonset Road project has stalled for now. The Chair stated that maybe by next meeting, Lynn O'Connell would talk about reengaging and contacting Alan Carrier about any future plans for this property.

10. Tentative date of next meeting: Wednesday March 15, 2023 at 9AM is the tentative date of the next meeting.

11. Adjournment of Meeting: A Motion was made to adjourn by Christopher Keating at 10:11AM. Hardie Truesdale seconded. All four members approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Christopher Keating, Clerk