

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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

Attendees: OSC Members: Chair Stephanie Gaskill, Lynn O'Connell, Hardie Truesdale, David Herrick and Patty Platten (via zoom) and also attending Stephen O'Grady for the OCT and Kevin Galligan Liaison to the Selectboard via Zoom.

Call to Order: Quorum with 6 members (7 allowed under new charge) present. Chair Stephanie Gaskill called meeting to order at 0900 AM.

- 1. Welcome of new members Patty Platten and David Herrick:** The committee gave a warm welcome to Patty and David and welcomed them aboard.
- 2. Public Comment:** There was no public comment at this time.
- 3. Approval of Minutes from the 2/15/2023 meeting:** Hardie Truesdale moved to approve the February 15, 2023 minutes and Lynn O'Connell seconded. All members present approved the minutes.
- 5. Report from Stephanie Gaskill, Liaison to the CPC:** The Chair reported there was only one meeting in March. This meeting reviewed of all the applications for the the town meeting warrant and updates on any new projects. The Chair then gave a brief explanation to the new members on the role of the CPC.
- 6. Report from Christopher Keating on 10 Cedar Pond status and 32 Locust Road possibilities:** Christopher Keating updated the members on his progress in negotiating a purchase price for 10 Cedar Pond from the owner Blanche Gregory. A purchase price of \$5000.00 was verbally agreed upon by the parties for this lot. Hardie Truesdale asked if the money had already been approved for this purchase. The Chair answered in the affirmative and noted that this was great news as the money for this lot was earmarked and approved at the previous town meeting. All this information was passed on to Kevin Galligan and the Town Council Mike Ford who will draft a Purchase and Sale agreement once written confirmation was received from Blanche Gregory. This will complete the purchases needed to make this one contiguous area for a possible elevated boardwalk and a launch for kayaks. Moving on, Stephen O'Grady reported that the OCT was interested in a sizable lot (32 Locust Road)which was adjacent to the Cedar Pond Lots. He noted that he had not had any contact with the owners yet.
- 7. Discussion of Bay Ridge Road wetland lots :**The Chair talked about the area around the State D.P.W. and Town owned lots on Bay Ridge Road. Hopefully this area of town will be enhanced and improved upon in anticipation of more family housing being constructed in the area. Access to businesses and the bike path is limited and difficult (no sidewalks) in this area. The Chair reported that the owner has indicated a willingness to sell the wetland lots for their appraised value. Currently, there are 3 lots that are assessed for about \$35,000 each. Kevin Galligan spoke highly of the possibilities in this area and that there is a Feasibility Reuse Study for this area on the Town Meeting Warrant. Hardie Truesdale commented on the possibility of a coordinated effort among different committees. Hardie agreed to reach out to the Recreation Committee and Affordable Housing Committee on this project. Kevin Galligan concluded by saying that bundling this with the other committees would be great and that he will try to get the Select board onboard with this once the feasibility reuse study is approved at town meeting. Hardie and Stephen O'Grady discussed how the use of GIS maps would be useful for this area.
- 8. Review of Orleans Conservation Recreation & Open Space Plan:** The Chair noted that she was thankful to George Meservey for this plan and also thanked Stephen O'Grady for laying out a list of priority parcels on an Excel Spreadsheet for future acquisition. Hardie Truesdale commented that it would be nice to have a GIS map of these parcels. The Chair noted that there is an overall map of these parcels in the plan. The Chair then questioned on whether our next step would be contacting these owners.
- 9. Continued discussion of future Open Space Committee Strategies:** The Chair discussed what she has observed with young people in town on what can be done with existing properties and future acquisitions regarding more recreational opportunities. The committee then discussed how to use GIS maps for

facilitation more in the future. David Herrick agreed to look into the matter. Stephen O'Grady offered to set up a short workshop only for the purpose of demonstrating how to find and use these maps.

10. Tentative date of next meeting: Wednesday May 17, 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 0945AM. Hardie Truesdale seconded. All four members approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Christopher Keating, Clerk