

John Jannell
 ASST
 ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Wednesday September 20, 2023, MEETING (Skaket Room) 9AM TOWN OF ORLEANS

Attendees: OSC Members: New Chair, Lynn O'Connell, Stephanie Gaskill, Hardie Truesdale, David Herrick, Christopher Keating and Patti Platten, also attending Stephen O'Grady from the Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT) and John Jannell of the Orleans Conservation Commission (ConCom).

1. **Call to Order:** Quorum with all 6 members present. The Chair called meeting to order at 0900AM.
2. **Vote to go into Executive Session,-Property purchase discussions with Conservation Commissioner John Jannell:** Stephanie Gaskill motioned to go into executive session at 0901AM. Christopher Keating seconded. All members voted to go into Executive Session.
3. **Adjourn Executive Session:** The Committee voted to adjourn Executive Session at 10:00AM
4. **Public comment and communications:** There was no public comment at this time.
5. **Approval of Minutes from the 8/16/2023 meeting:** Hardie Truesdale moved to approve the August 16, 2023 minutes and Stephanie Gaskill seconded. All voted to approve the minutes.
6. **Update of existing projects:** Christopher Keating informed the committee that negotiations on the 10 Cedar pond lot are stalled for now and will not resume until the following year at the request of the owner. The Chair then noted that there will be a OSC vote at the next meeting on the Eli Rogers property which the OCT will have before the CPC in November. Stephanie also noted that we will not have any applications at the next CPC meeting except for \$20,000 in administrative costs and that this request was reduced at the request of the CPC for all committees. Stephanie stated that we can discuss any additional administrative funding needs and also noted how this small amount of funding doesn't help if the OSC needs to act quickly on any new open space. David Herrick pointed out that the OCT can't always rely on its donors either and was in the same predicament. Stephanie noted how some towns have a yearly fund request for this type of funding similar to our Affordable Housing Committee Trust Fund. Lynn O'Connell noted that We had looked into this matter in past meetings. Stephanie then reiterated that at the last Chairperson's meeting, the general consensus was that don't have an Open Space Crisis in town but an affordable Housing Crisis. The Chair also noted that this Trust Fund issue was looked into by the committee at previous meetings with Allen McClellan and it was decided not to pursue this matter. Christopher Keating also noted that we are fortunate to have the OCT who quickly act on potential open space.
7. **CPC 2024 grant application discussion:** No grant applications were needed at this time.
8. **Other business :** No other business was discussed at this time.
9. **Election of Committee positions for FY 24 (Vice Chair, Clerk):** The Chair nominated Christopher Keating as Clerk and Stephanie Gaskill seconded the nomination. All the members voted for Christopher Keating as Clerk. A brief discussion then ensued on the Vice Chair position. At this time the position remains vacant with no members assuming this role. Former Chair Stephanie Gaskill mentioned that at the Select Board meeting with the CPC the preference was for this position to be filled by someone interning for the chair position but that this is advice and not a rule. Shephanie stated that she could cover Lynn or anyone else could cover for that matter and that It is not necessary to have someone in that position. David Herrick was still unsure if he was a voting member or an associate member. The Chair stated that she will check in later with Andrea Reed with the Select Board on the matter.
10. **Next meeting scheduled:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 9AM is the date of the next meeting.
11. **Adjourn Meeting:** A Motion was made to adjourn by Hardie Truesdale at 10:16AM. Lynn O'Connell seconded. All five members present approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Christopher Keating, Clerk