

Lakeville Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes
Lakeville Library
Wednesday, July 10, 2019, 7:00 pm

Members Present: Chairman Jesse Medford, Mike Schroeder, Liz Nash, Brian Reynolds, prospective member Brian Anderson. Not Present: Deanna Elliot

Other Attendees: Kathy Munsey, representing David Freitas and Todd Freitas

Chairman Medford called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

June 5, 2019 minutes passed unanimously.

Chair Medford stated that another prospective new member was not in attendance.

A vote was taken to accept prospective member Brian Adams and it passed unanimously. This brings the Committee to an almost full 7 members for the first time in three years.

Discussion Items :

Orrall Property on Crooked Lane. There was no new information to report for an update.
Island Terrace Property: There was no new information to report for an update.
Conversation was had regarding a Gazette article regarding Island Terrace revenue for the town, and it was mentioned again how money from the sale of Howland Terrace was not held out for Open Space purposes, but had gone into the general fund. It was suggested that when these pieces of property are sold, perhaps there should be a Town vote on where the money is spent as opposed to it being a Selectman decision.

Guests Kathy Munsey, representing David Freitas, and David's son Todd Freitas introduced themselves. They informed the Committee that they need to pay debts now that the Freitas' father has passed on. Land in their possession has a restriction of first refusal by the Town of Lakeville to be open space, so they came to the meeting to inform and explain. They are looking for \$179,000 for the property. Mike Schroeder recused herself as an abutter. Chairman Medford stated that as farmland near the Nemasket this property is a priority to preserve, Mike explained that this particular piece does not indeed abut the river, and suggested that if the piece of land they own that does abut the Nemasket should come up for sale, then the Open Space Committee should suggest the Town does indeed look into buying it.

More conversation was held to determine exactly where the piece of land the Freitas are selling is located. Todd Freitas stated more of the land will be going up for sale to pay taxes, but it is being split with another relative, while this current piece of land was owned solely by his father. Kathy Munsey asked directly if we are releasing right of first refusal. A vote was taken and with Mike Schroeder abstaining, passed to release right of first refusal 3-0.

The committee is in need of a new Open Space Plan as the current one is seven years old. Chairman Medford picked up 3 copies of the Workbook to share. Discussion was held on how the Committee will commence with updating the Plan. Mike suggested breaking up the plan into those portions that can remain the same and those that need updating due to the information changing over the seven years.

Chairman Medford spoke as the Park Commission liaison and stated that two of the parks had already been sprayed for mosquitos. Plymouth County is doing the spraying. Brief discussion was held regarding collateral damage of insects and birds due to mosquito spraying.

Mike asked if Jesse was aware that the Park Commission received her letter regarding not mowing close to the protected stream running through one of the Parks, and Jesse had asked but did not hear anything about it. Mike will forward the letter directly to Jesse.

Mike spoke as liaison to the Assowompsett Pond Complex Commission. APC meetings are not usually posted due to security concerns. Their first three meetings will be planning/working meetings, and the fourth will be public and posted and perhaps recorded by Lakecam. Discussion was had regarding how the APC Commission is clamping down on access to Assowompsett and the dam, particularly now that a former member of the APC, Pat Frietas, has passed and is no longer overseeing access. APC states this is private property.

It was noted that it has been observed that there are three eaglets on Assowompsett, and that the loon release program had ended but is being re-started and they are considering releasing loons on Elders Pond also.

Brian Reynolds had no updates as liaison for the Historical Commission.

Voting on an Open Space Committee Clerk was held over until the next meeting. Liz took minutes for this meeting, Mike volunteered to do so for the next if necessary.

Continued discussion was had regarding how to split up responsibility for updating the Open Space plan. Jesse stated he will speak with former Chairman Patrick as he is the liaison to the Master Plan Committee and has access to SRPEDD and their information which could assist the OS Committee. The Open Space Plan Workbook is online at Mass.gov. Mike stated that the most difficult part will be community input. It was discussed that a mailer could be sent, or a table at local festivals, a public meeting or perhaps a survey be sent with the tax notifications.

Brian Reynolds moved to skip the August meeting, Liz seconded, it was unanimously voted to do so. The next meeting was scheduled for September 4th at 7:00 pm, Mike motioned to adjourn, Brian Reynolds seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.