

Open Space Committee  
Minutes  
May 25, 7:00 p.m. – in person and via zoom

- I. Present: Eric B., Kenley Clark, Sally Loomis, Melinda McCall, Markelle Smith, Holly Hendricks, Planning Board liaison)
- Update: The Hodgkins property is being cleaned up and has been taken off the market. It is unclear what the owner's plans are.
  - Kestrel Land Trust is working with MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to place an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on 31 acres of farmland on the east side of Mountain Street. This land is owned by the Warner family. The town and/or Kestrel need to come up with a local match of \$20,500. The Select Board agreed to put the request on a warrant sometime in the future.
  - Update on the Orwat property: A neighbor purchased the land at 5 Petticoat Hill Road to protect the land from development.
  - Update on the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) grants:
    - The town can apply for funding for planning, design, or implementation to meet the goals of the MVP plan, though each category must be done separately.
    - Paul Wetzel, with help from several others, wrote a grant request for funds to enhance the energy efficiency and wetlands protection at the Public Safety Complex building and site.
    - In addition to a new safety complex, the MVP prioritized creation of a town Master Plan and watershed management plan. The town could apply for fund next spring for either or both of these plans or for protection of land that would enhance the town's resilience to climate change.
    - The Open Space Committee should coordinate with the Planning Board on any planning grants. Jean O'Neil is on the Planning Board board and knows a lot about the application process. This is also a good time to start talking with other towns about any watershed scale planning.
  - T-Mobile grant opportunity: Grants could help with park restoration. (T-Mobile Hometown Grant Application 2022 - Quarter 3. Ends on October 1, 2022)
  - The process for dealing with lands removed from Chapter 61 needs to be updated. This task is in our Open Space Action Plan.
  - Open Space Plan – items to complete draft plan requested by EEA:
    - Discussed request to include the needs of teens, disabled, and elders in the Analysis of Needs section of the plan. Kenley looked at the Opens Space Plans of Goshen and Shelburne as models, and has added volunteer opportunities for teens, community service requirements at the high school, and programs for teens and seniors to the plan.
    - Markelle updated the section on Environmental Justice communities.
      - The elderly and poor may be more reliant on electricity for poorly insulated houses and/or to support medical equipment.

- Some trails can be accessed from town the center of town and the PVRTA bus line and thus would not require a car.
  - The majority of low-income housing is along the Route 9 corridor. The future Greenway will provide walking and biking access, as well as improved river access for residents in these areas.
  - Eric took out some redundant maps and reorganized where some information is presented. He will also add the Planning Board letter of support and a PDF of appendices.
  - Sally is completing requested updates to section 5
  - Once these changes are finalized, the plan can be sent to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.
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- The Open Space Committee needs one more member. All members present agreed to serve another year on the Committee.
  
  - The next meeting is scheduled for July 18.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:40