

Wakefield Conservation Commission (Commission) – Minutes – March 22, 2022

Attendance: Chairman Jim Luciani, Vice Chairman Bob Romano; Ken Alepidis; Teresa Belmonte; Silvana Bouhlal

Absent: Frank Calandra; Peter Miller

Rebecca Davis, Judy Green

Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) discussion – An overview of the OSRP process to date with potential goals to pursue was provided. The OSRP was established by the Commission in 1986. It has undergone several updates since that time. It is intended to be a planning tool for use across all areas of Town government. Cost estimates to undertake the update were received from Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and Horsley Witten. The Commission will review OSRPs undertaken by each firm. A vote will be taken at the Commission's 4/14/22 meeting.

Town Forest, adjacent to Mapleway Playground, as well as Reedy Meadow were highlighted as parcels with potential for protection/reimagining. Transferring tax title parcels to Commission care and custody, adding informational kiosks, updating trails, installing benches as well as trail cams were suggested ideas.

Ms. Davis stated that Town Administrator Steve Maio expressed interest in receiving from the Commission town-owned parcels for transfer to the care and custody of the Commission. Ms. Davis suggested tax title parcels adjacent to Mapleway Playground (Town Forest) as well as tax title properties extending towards Holland Road. The entire network totals 100 acres. There is an existing trail system across several of these parcels currently in use. Transfer to the Commission requires a 2/3 approval vote from Town Meeting. Timetable for article submission for the May 16, 2022 meeting will be reviewed for the next meeting.

Goals to be added to the OSRP:

- Transfer of tax title properties to the care and custody of the Commission.
- Highlight unique natural areas in Wakefield, i.e. Golden Hills ACEC, Reedy Meadow, Town Forest.
- Work with local businesses to develop public/private partnerships for the purpose of enhancing and protecting adjacent open spaces. Audubon Road and Edgewater Office Park were cited as potential areas.
- Increase public awareness around the need to protect and preserve open spaces, water resources and their critical buffers was seen as a top priority.
- Work in conjunction with the Economic Development Director/Town Planner to heighten public awareness of the return on investment through protecting, retaining and enhancing open areas.
- Develop ongoing partnership amongst Town boards to further OSRP directives.

Wakefield Conservation Commission – Minutes – March 22, 2022

- Ongoing community education of open space initiatives through informational kiosks, handouts, enhanced web page and seminars.
- Actively manager, maintain and strive to expand existing conservation and recreation areas.

This matter was tabled for follow-up at a future special meeting.

Mr. Luciani made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Belmonte made a second to the motion. After polling the Commissioners individually, the motion passed unanimously.