

PROVINCETOWN OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL MEETING
OPEN SESSION
September 8, 2020
2:04 p.m.

Members present:

- Robin Evans
- William Mullin
- Dennis Minsky, Committee Chair
- Susan Avellar
- Lucy Siegel

Members absent:

- Celine Gandolfo
- Ansley Pierce

Others present:

- Mark Robinson, (Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, contracted by the committee)
- Timothy Famulare, Town Conservation Agent and Environmental Planner

Chair Dennis Minsky convened the Open Space Committee's executive session at 2:04 p.m., pursuant to M.G.L. c30A Sec. 21(6) and 21(7), to consider the purchase, lease, or value of real estate.

Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent Tim Famulare, as the moderator, introduced the remote participation meeting and called the roll, determining that a quorum was present. Siegel recorded minutes of the meeting.

Famulare explained why a virtual meeting was being conducted and how meeting attendees could view the meeting and participate by calling a number that is shown on the screen and then entering a conference ID number. He asked that all participants keep their phones on mute when not speaking. He explained how to unmute a phone and requested that all speakers state their names prior to speaking.

Warrant Article (18) for Town Meeting on Sept. 21st

Article 18 was read aloud by Famulare.

The Town Meeting Warrant calls for \$120,300 to be spent in FY 2021 on maintenance and other expenses. Mullin asked what maintenance consists of. The answer: maintenance expenses are for maintenance, or costs associated with acquisition, of equipment or a parcel of property itself, acquired by Land Bank funds. Maintenance includes appraisals and legal fees associated with acquiring the property.

The east end waterfront park project received a \$50,000 grant, under the Community Preservation Act, to hire a planner. OSC will not need to provide capital improvement financing as a result.

The committee had voted \$20,000 for the planning project. If expenses are planned to be more than that, the committee would have to approve the additional funds.

CIP will be withdrawn on the floor of the town meeting.

Mullin asked whether the committee was voting to recommend the expenditure of \$70,300 or \$120,300 at town meeting. Answer: the motion should be for \$120,300. The approved funds could be used for another purpose. It is the committee's charge to vote to recommend the article or not to recommend it. (OSC can't change the article.)

Minsky moved that the OSC vote to recommend article 18 in the town meeting warrant. Siegel seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, by a vote of 5-0-0

Contract with the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts

OSC has received a contract proposal for Mark Robinson, Executive Director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, for an expenditure of up to \$3,500, on consulting, at \$100/hour. These funds come out of acquisition-related costs. Minsky noted that the support of Robinson and the CCPT are crucial to operation of the OS committee.

Minsky moved to approve the contract with CCPT for a sum not to exceed \$3,500 for 35 hours of consultation. Mullin seconded, and the motion was carried, 5-0-0.

668R Commercial St. Update

Famulare said the Town and seller executed a P&S agreement for a date in early 2023, which might be earlier if the seller can receive a tax credit earlier than that. Seller agreed that we could postpone approval of the acquisition until the next town meeting in spring 2021. (The Select Board asked for non-essential articles to be postponed from the Town Meeting this fall because it will be held outside, and should be kept as short as possible.) The seller understands the timing issue.

Update on Ongoing Issues

Minsky said, regarding the Hawthorne property, that the OSC has a CPA grant for \$43,000 for various changes and upgrades.

Stewardship and Maintenance Issues

Mullin noted that there are ongoing trash issues. This includes trash outside the Hawthorne area, on adjacent land where homeless people have been camping out. It also includes trash on Old Colony land. The committee discussed getting volunteers, such as from AmeriCorp, to collect it. The Old Colony trash concern is not as worrisome as the trash from the homeless encampment outside of Hawthorne. Famulare suggested that the committee might use Land Bank funds for that, since AmeriCorps workers don't start until later this year. Also, there is a broken bench in Nikki's Park.

Mullin brought up the issue of the Eversource tree fund, and suggested that the money in the fund should be used in the conservation area. Minsky commented that it is hard to plant trees and maintain them with the amount we have received from Eversource (maintenance = constant watering). Minsky thinks we should expand the rule around where those trees should be planted and that it should be in public areas other than conservation areas because of logistics and water resources. Famulare said that

to do this, the committee would need to develop a proposal, approve it and then recommend it to the Select Board for their approval. OSC originally requested that the fund be created. He believes that if OSC makes a proposal for use of the funds, the Select Board would approve it. Mullin suggested trees planted at Motta Field, and Siegel suggested planting at the east end waterfront park for shade in the park. Minsky commented that there is money allocated to the plan for waterfront park, and tree planting will take quite a while, since the plan for the park hasn't even been developed. Expenditure of money from the tree fund must be approved by the Recreation Cttee and OSC. Minsky commented that it will be a while before trees grow enough to provide shade, but noted that lower height shrubs can be of much value as well.

Approval of past minutes

This agenda item was postponed for a future meeting of the committee.

Other business

Mullin asked if Famulare is seeking money from the state for a pedestrian crosswalk across Snail Rd. between the two portions of the nature trail. Famulare said Snail Rd. is a state road, and a pedestrian crosswalk would require a state permit and then approval from the Select Board in 2021, at the time when it has its annual traffic hearing.

Robinson updated the committee about the Sinaiko Trust and said about an acre of land will be a gift to the town. This will go to the select board for approval, and sometime this fall the town will be able to add another acre to that preservation area.

Minsky moved that the OSC close its public session and move to enter Executive Session, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate. Mullin seconded the motion. The open session was adjourned at 2:50 pm.