

PROVINCETOWN OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL MEETING
OPEN SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING
April 15, 2021
4:30 PM

Members present virtually:

- Robin Evans
- Dennis Minsky, Committee Chair
- William Mullin
- 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

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 enter 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.

Minsky convened the open session of the Open Space Committee at 4:44 PM.

Public Hearing on Articles Submitted to the Town Meeting Warrant

In accordance with Article 2-3-g of the Provincetown Charter, the Provincetown Open Space Committee hearing was the first item on the agenda, to hear comments from the public and determine the number of committee members in favor or opposed to the articles submitted by the Committee on the warrant of the May 1, 2021 Annual Town Meeting. There were no public comments. Minsky moved that the Open Space Committee recommend the approval of both Articles 15 and 16. Mullin seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion, 4-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Minsky moved to approve the minutes of the committee's 3/11/2021 Open Session Meeting with one change. Mullin seconded the motion, and the committee members unanimously approved the motion, 4-0-0.

Report on the Open Space and Recreation Plan & Site Y Study

Famulare reported he has a call planned for the week of April 19th to set up a timeline with Horsley Witten, the firm chosen to help with the revision of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. He also noted he was waiting for a cost proposal from a vendor for the Site Y study that the committee plans.

Tree and Shrub Planting

No date has been set yet for this event, although the committee believes mid-May would be good timing. Minsky moved that the committee authorize an expenditure of no more than \$2,000 for planting trees, shrubs and other vegetation in the committee's conservation areas this spring. Siegel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously, 4-0-0.

Poison Ivy Control

Minsky said he had received a cost proposal from Stacey Greaves, owner of Goat Green Cape Cod, the firm that uses goats to assist in landscaping. Greaves proposed she will bring her goats to Provincetown to eat the poison ivy at the B-Street Garden site at a cost of \$2,750. The committee had previously approved an expense of \$2,500. The committee members discussed the potential efficacy of the treatment for controlling the poison ivy versus the cost. Minsky noted that Greaves had not said the treatment was a cure-all for eliminating the poison ivy and that we would probably have to re-do the treatment after a few years. The committee members concluded it was worth the expense to try the treatment, and Minsky moved to increase the amount of the expenditure to \$2,750. Siegel seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0-0. Famulare suggested that once the goats had eaten the poison ivy, we could plant some native vegetation that might help discourage the poison ivy from returning. Minsky agreed that was a good idea and suggested that Famulare call environmental consulting firm Wilkinson, which has done work for the committee in the past, to ask for recommended foliage.

Other Maintenance Issues

Famulare mentioned he had received a call from a resident in the area of West Vine Street, close to the stables, to let him know that there are broken fence rails there. He said the Department of Public Works is doing work on Conwell Street and can source the rails from the contractor they are using for that project. Mullin moved that the committee spend no more than \$1,000 on split rail fencing materials, sourced by the DPW, to fix the broken rails. Minsky seconded the motion, which was passed 4-0-0.

Mullin asked Famulare if there had been any progress on the committee's wish to put signage at the crosswalk on Snail Road for the Old Colony Nature Pathway. Famulare said there was no news on that.

Mullin suggested that the committee vote to authorize use of excess money in its tree planting fund for use on non-conservation property owned by the town, such as during the planned renovation of Motta Field. Minsky, who commented that this was a good idea, added that the Open Space Committee should be able to weigh in on what kind of trees are planted to assure they are native species.

Mullin asked Famulare if there was a plan yet to get on the schedule of the new town manager, Alex Morse, to show him the various properties acquired as a result of the committee's work, perhaps on a guided walk, so that he could see there is public interest in these conservation properties. Famulare said he would ask David Gardener, his supervisor, to help with this and Minsky suggested that the committee leave the timing to Famulare.

Minsky moved to adjourn the meeting. Mullin seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM.