

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY MARCH 16, 2022, VIRTUAL MEETING 9AM TOWN OF ORLEANS

2022 APR 21 3:29PM

Zoom Attendees: OSC Members: Chair Robert Cunningham, Hardie Truesdale, Lynn O'Connell and Stephanie Gaskill.

Call to Order: Quorum reached with 4 members present. The Chair called the meeting to order at 09:02 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes from the 02/16/2022 meeting: Lynn O'Connell moved to approve the February 16, 2022 minutes and Stephanie Gaskill seconded. The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes.

2. Report from Stephanie Gaskill, Liaison to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC): Stephanie opened by reporting that the two million dollar request in bonding for the "Firehouse restoration project" was turned down at the March CPC meeting. This project was brought forward by the historic committee but the sentiment among CPC members was that this was not a "true historic restoration". The committee was also concerned about how bonding for this project would affect future CPC funding. Stephanie stated that \$951,000 in funding was requested by applicants this year and if the additional two million in bonding was approved every year, the CPC would soon be in the red. The Chair questioned this assumption and a discussion then ensued on this matter, bonds and debt service. The Chair asked Stephanie if the "Firehouse project" was "dead in the water" or if there was another way to bring it to town meeting. Stephanie went on to explain that the CPC members, including herself thought the price was too steep for what we are getting in return, but that a large contingent in town would like to bring this project to town meeting. The Chair then asked if the warrant article was now set for town meeting. Stephanie stated yes, but that there would be a separate warrant article for bonding of about one million dollars for the 107 Main Street affordable housing project. Finally, the chair stated that there was about a million left over from last year in CPC funds and asked if he would be correct in stating that there will be money left over to be carried over until next year. Stephanie said that this assumption was correct and that this amount will be about \$430,000. Stephanie noted that the CPC generally likes to have a buffer of funds for projects that come up each year. Stephanie concluded discussion on the CPC meeting by stating that there was a total of three million in application requests from the CPC last year and that only \$951,000 was requested from the CPC this year.

3. Old Business: The Chair reminded the OPC members that the town will soon be taking three Cedar Pond parcels by eminent domain. Now what remains he stated are the two parcels that the OSC is interested in and that he has started negotiations with one property owner at 10 Cedar Pond who reside in Texas. The owner will be up in June to negotiate and hopefully we can reach an accord then on this property. The fifth property is dormant for now as the owner lives in Eastham and has not responded to any of the Chairs requests to talk.

In concluding old business, the Chair reported that the latest 2021 SMAST report concludes that Cedar pond is marginally better off than the previous year. Basically the pond is less saline and more brackish and the hope is that someday this will help the herring migrate into the pond.

4. New Business: The Chair announced that OPC elections for committee posts will be held at the July meeting. The Chair then stated that he would like to assign tasks for the elevated boardwalk project between the Seikel and Christian properties in South Orleans. The Chair noted however that we should put out a plan before the OCT and Conservation Commission first to make sure they are on board with our plan. The Chair stated that if all goes well, he would like to see someone volunteer as liaison to the OCT on their end of the project and work directly with Steven O'Grady. Lynn O'Connell volunteered as liaison for the Conservation Commission and their involvement in the project. He stated that it would be great to get a general commitment in principal soon from the Conservation Commission and the OCT on the project. A discussion ensued on possibly getting these parties together to walk the property concerning location of the boardwalk and a future trail layout on the Seikel property. The Chair thought that a joint walk might be premature until we get the go-ahead from the OCT and the Conservation Commission on the project. Hardie Truesdale disagreed and thinks that a preliminary walk would be beneficial for the OCT and ConsCom to get an idea of what they are getting into and not to have some vague notion of what this project might entail. Lynn O'Connell concurred with Hardie.

A discussion ensued on the subject of restored boardwalks at the White Cedar Swamp and Red Maple Swamp at the National Seashore. All agreed on taking some kind of preliminary walk at these sites and the site of the future elevated boardwalk. The Chair summarized to say that he hoped since the boardwalk will involve OSC money, We should have an application to present to the CPC in November. He noted that future discussions on design would also involve the Recreation and Parks Department. He stated that a draft design would have to go before Select board sometime this fall. There would also have to be permitting for the wetlands to comply with the Wetlands Protection Act. In conclusion, the Chair stated that he would like to have a rough timeline for what needs to occur. Hardie and Lynn agreed to walk the restored Red Maple Swamp and White Cedar Swamp boardwalks. Hardie planned to initiate talks for a walk at the proposed elevated boardwalk site. The Chair stated that he will contact John Jannell and the Chair at the Conservation Commission. The Chair then stated that we can then get design people involved and find out about the preliminary cost of this project. Hardie Truesdale concurred and stated that he will take photographs of the area for the project proposal.

6. Date of next meeting: 9am on April 20, 2022 is the date of the next meeting.

7. Adjournment: Hardie Truesdale moved to adjourn at 10:04AM. Lynn O'Connell seconded. All approved. Respectfully Submitted, Christopher Keating, Clerk