

MINUTES OF THE HOLLISTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

March 15, 2021

Attendees: Lixy Carey, Ann Marie Pilch, Matt Hodgdon, Emmanuelle Schwarz, PJ Kilkelly, John Vosburg

Ms. Carey, Chair, opened the meeting at 5:31pm.

Ms. Carey read the following into the record:

Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c 30A paragraph 20, as well as the Select Board's Emergency Order dated 3/16/2020 the Holliston Open Space Committee will be using remote participation for this meeting. The audio of this meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the Town's webpage within 24 hours in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Action requirement of keeping the public informed of actions during this meeting. I would ask that all participants remotely attending this meeting please state your name for identification purposes each time you speak throughout the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Carey:	Present
Mr. Kilkelly:	Present
Mr. Hodgdon:	Present
Ms. Pilch:	Present
Ms. Schwarz	Present
Mr. Vosburg	Present

Ms. Pilch made a motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2020; Mr. Kilkelly seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Carey	Aye
Mr. Kilkelly	Aye
Mr. Hodgdon	Aye
Ms. Pilch	Aye
Ms. Schwarz	Aye
Mr. Vosburg	Abstain

Ms. Carey welcomed Ms. Schwarz as a new member of the Committee. The Select Board voted to approve her nomination and she was officially sworn in as of Friday, March 12, 2021.

147 N. Mill St.

Mr. Kilkelly made a site visit on September 19, 2020. He was asked to leave the property by other family members. A family dispute takes this property out of consideration.

Land Donation off Adams St.

This 22 acre parcel was embedded within the Fairbanks and Town Forest parcels off Adams St. In 2020, the owners offered to donate the land to the Conservation Commission and the Commission accepted the donation. The deed has since been transferred to the Commission. Mr. Hodgdon suggested that an article be submitted to the Holliston Reporter to thank the owners and let Holliston residents know about the donation. He wondered if it might be possible to talk to the donors to find out more about their connection to the land. Ms. Pilch will ask Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent, to contact the donors and find out if they would be willing to have a phone conversation regarding the property.

Thistledew Farm

The survey has been completed but there is still some additional paperwork to be completed for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR). Things have moved slowly at the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture but they are hoping for an April closing.

Finn Property

An approximately one-acre site on Highland St. is being subdivided off the Finn property at the corner of Hollis and Highland Streets across from Holliston High School, and an offer to purchase has been received. As the property is under Chapter 61, the town has the right of first refusal (ROFR). The 120-day ROFR period ends in mid-April but there may be some extension allowed due to COVID-19. Committee members agreed that the one-acre parcel does not have open space interest, but would like to contact the property owner at some point to find out what their long-term plans are for the whole parcel (approximately 40 acres) as it may have some value for open space and/or recreation. Meanwhile, Ms. Carey will contact Travis Ahearn, Town Administrator, to find out what other parties in town (e.g. the schools) might be interested in the property and what the timeline is for the ROFR.

230 Winter St.

Mr. Hodgdon and Ms. Pilch independently noticed that this property abuts own-owned conservation land, has frontage on Winter St., and has no structures on it. Mr. Hodgdon offered to contact the owners. Ms. Carey will look up information she has on tips for contacting landowners.

Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update

Ms. Carey will reach out to Karen Sherman. Ms. Pilch noted that the 2021 Massachusetts Open Space Conference, taking place virtually every Thursday this month, has an extensive resource page, including information on writing/updating OSRPs.

Committee Recruitment

The Committee is still short one member. A resident who is a member of some other Town commissions has expressed some interest. Ms. Carey suggested that we might want to consider bringing fresh voices

and more diversity into our town leadership, while acknowledging that the ideal candidate would also have an interest and passion for the Committee's mission.

263 South Street

The owner of this property is reconsidering his options on sale of the developed portion of the property but is still planning to donate the bulk of the property for conservation purposes, possibly to the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT). He remains in occasional communication with Christa Collins of SVT.

Other Properties

Highland Hill Farm does not appear to be on the market currently. The owner had previously listed the property at full market value despite its having an APR on it. Mr. Hodgdon noted that there might be a possible walking connection in the back of the property to connect the Town-owned Pinecrest Golf Course Property with Mass Audubon's Waseeka Wildlife Sanctuary and wondered if an easement might be possible. Mr. Vosburg noted that this area is primarily wetlands so may not be accessible.

Next Meeting

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021, 7pm.

At 6:38pm, Mr. Vosburg made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Hodgdon seconded. A roll call vote was taken

Ms. Carey	Aye
Mr. Kilkelly	Aye
Mr. Hodgdon	Aye
Ms. Pilch	Aye
Ms. Schwarz	Aye
Mr. Vosburg	Aye

Minutes approved by a roll call vote of the Holliston Open Space Committee at a meeting on April 12, 2021.

<i>Lixy Carey</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Matt Hodgdon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>PJ Kilkelly</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ann Marie Pilch</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Emmanuelle Schwarz</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>John Vosburg</i>	<i>Aye</i>