

Minutes of the Holliston Open Space Committee

August 23, 2021, 7pm

Members Attending: Lixy Carey (chair), Matt Hodgdon, Ann Marie Pilch, Manu Schwarz

Guest: Shaw Lively

Ms. Carey called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

Ms. Carey read the following into the record:

Pursuant to the Governor's June 16, 2021 Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c 30A paragraph 20, 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 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 attendance vote was taken:

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

Ms. Pilch made a motion to approve the open session and executive session minutes of June 21, 2021;

Mr. Hodgdon seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Carey:	Aye
Mr. Hodgdon:	Aye
Ms. Pilch:	Aye
Ms. Schwarz	Aye

Committee Recruitment

Ms. Carey reported that John Vosburg has resigned from the Committee and we therefore have two open seats and two qualified candidates.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to recommend that the Select Board appoint Shaw Lively and Carrie Marsh Loscocco to fill the open Committee seats; Mr. Hodgdon seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Carey:	Aye
Mr. Hodgdon:	Aye
Ms. Pilch:	Aye
Ms. Schwarz	Aye

Envisioning Future Holliston

Ms. Carey, the Committee's representative to the Holliston Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee, renamed Envision Future Holliston (EFH), reported on EFH's meetings thus far. Stacey Raffi was elected as Chair, with Matt Putvinski as Vice Chair, and Ann Marie Pilch as Clerk. There has been a lot of conversation about goals and objectives and past planning efforts such as the 1999 Master Plan. EFH will gather input and viewpoints of Holliston residents to form a basis for future actions by Town boards and committees. EFH will report on progress at the May 2022 Town Meeting. An initial survey will use open-ended questions to guide a more detailed second survey. EFH hopes to get full participation of Town residents and has discussed additional ways to collect information. There is a plan to have a booth at Celebrate Holliston.

Ms. Pilch asked Committee members for their input on ways to reach a broad spectrum of Holliston residents. Ideas included:

- Piggybacking on another mailing such as water or tax bills
- Facebook (although it is key to reach people not on Facebook)
- Using emails lists such as Parks and Recreation registrants
- Capturing demographics on the survey (to ensure the sample is representative)
- Soliciting youth
- Make use of Honor Society members and others seeking service projects to collect information at events
- Have a table in front of Fiske's
- QR codes
- Banner on Town website
- Create succinct language to communicate EFH's goals and objectives

Open Space Committee Webpage

After the Committee's June meeting, Mr. Hodgdon sent suggested website text to members for feedback. Key features were:

- The Committee's mission
- Defining open space
- Advantages of open space
- Contact information

The Committee discussed and refined the text. Mr. Hodgdon will send the revised text to Ms. Carey who will arrange for it to be on the Committee's page on the Town website.

Thistledew Farm

Ms. Carey reported that the APR for Thistledew is still not finalized for undetermined reasons. Christa Collins of Sudbury Valley Trustees is looking into this.

Other Business

Ms. Pilch recently learned about the Save a Forest toolkit from the Old Growth Forest Network and will send a link to the other members and prospective members. It nicely outlines the tools and process of preserving forests and other open space. Ms. Pilch and Ms. Schwarz participated in online webinars last March of the Massachusetts Open Space Conference. Their website has many useful links. Ms. Pilch will send a link to that as well.

The Committee discussed parcels of interest on Winter St. and off Adams St. and the need to be proactive in reaching out to landowners. Members will look at the Targeted Acquisitions list from the 2013 Open Space and Recreation Plan to discuss at our next meeting.

Next meeting: September 27, 7pm.

Ms. Carey:	Aye
Mr. Hodgdon:	Aye
Ms. Pilch:	Aye
Ms. Schwarz	Aye

Approved at Open Space Committee Meeting on November 1, 2021