

On March 24, 2023, on a motion by Steve Sozanski, and seconded by Christine Marzigliano, the OSRP Ad-Hoc Committee voted 3-0 to approve the meeting minutes for the March 10, 2023 meeting, with Will Rubenstein, Christine Marzigliano, and Steve Sozanski voting in favor.

YARMOUTH TOWN CLERK

Town of Yarmouth

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**MEETING MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN (OSRP) AD-HOC
COMMITTEE MEETING OF
March 10, 2023**

The Yarmouth **OSRP Ad-Hoc Committee** held a Hybrid in-person/remote access Business Meeting at **9:00** a.m. on **Friday – March 10, 2023** in Room A of Yarmouth Town Hall, located at 1146 Route 28 in South Yarmouth.

Ad-Hoc Committee Members Present: Will Rubenstein (Planning Board), Steve Sozanski (Recreation Commission) (left at 9:48), Christine Marzigliano (Open Space Committee), and Ellie Lawrence (Conservation Commission)

Ad-Hoc Committee Members Absent: Gail Charette (Disability Commission)

Town Staff: Kathy Williams, Town Planner; Brittany DiRienzo, Conservation Administrator; Bill Bonnetti, Division of Natural Resources Director; and Nate Whetten, DPW

Consultant: Cassie Bethoney, Weston & Sampson (W&S)

1. **Introductions:** Will Rubenstein, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:02. All Committee members were in person. All votes were roll call votes, and the meeting was livestreamed to the Town of Yarmouth YouTube Channel.
2. **Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update:** Discussion on updating the OSRP.
 - a. **Debrief of the February 8th Open House:** Committee members reviewed the attached February 24th W&S Memo summarizing the input from the February 8th Open Housing including the Q&A Session, entry map board and topic tables. Various Committee members offered input for minor modifications/clarifications related to spelling, topic table comment for Englewood Beach (related to signage on shellfish contamination) and reference to the NStar property off White Rock Road.
 - b. **Review 2023 OSRP Survey results:** Cassie Bethoney briefly summarized the attached results of the 467 responses to the 2023 OSRP Survey. She reviewed the popular facilities in each of the villages (Bass Hole and smugglers being the most popular in Town), noting that many people were unaware of some of them (or did not know them by that name) and that facilities in West Yarmouth were frequented the least. Most popular time to go were from 9 am to 6 pm with people mostly drive, although the need for sidewalks, bike lanes/paths to connect recreation facilities was noted.

Cassie Bethoney and the Committee discussed some priorities identified in the Survey including:

- Expand programs and activities for all ages, particularly teens and kids
- Year-round activities and programs, especially in the winter months
- Pickleball, indoor and outdoor. Committee discussed the issues with conflicts in uses at Flax Pond and discussed prioritizing pickleball courts at Sandy Pond, as well as considering some modifications at Flax such as leaving the nets up year-round. Also discussed the potential for pickleball and other recreational opportunities at the former

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Mattacheese Middle School as part of the re-use committee analysis, but this will be years away.

- Maintenance of existing facilities
- Restrooms, year-round. The Committee talked about off season porta-johns
- Walking/jogging/hiking trails
- ADA paths and sidewalks and bike lanes. The Committee discussed pursuing the Complete Streets program which includes a master plan for improvements to bike lanes, shared pathways and sidewalks.
- ADA playground equipment
- Community Center and indoor pool
- Expanded conservation and protection of existing land
- Soccer facilities/fields
- Skate park
- Disc golf
- More communication, information and mapping needed to get the word out about what is available.
- Care of restrooms, update and add more; reconsider the open hours (locks are on a timer). Locked hours vary between locations – consider consistent closure times.
- Leave natural areas natural. May need to clarify that many locations have conservation restrictions that can only be used for passive recreation.
- Hunting concerns were brought up in the survey. The Committee discussed where hunting was allowed (bogs and woodlands) and when allowed including the busiest hunting season in December for deer season and fall through end of January for waterfowl. Discussed 2013 Mapping and hunting signage.

- c. First discussion of Draft Goals/Objectives/Action Items: The Committee briefly reviewed the attached spreadsheet of Goals/Objectives/Action Items which started with the 2015 OSRP and included notes on input from the Survey/Open House and identifying those action items that were completed.

It was concluded that Committee members and Staff will review the goals/objectives/action items Worksheet (updated at the meeting by W&S) in more detail over the next week or so and offer their input in preparation for the next meeting. Kathy Williams indicated the action items should be something that can realistically be completed within the 7-year plan time, things that the Town is already working on that support the goals, and things that are included as action items in other studies/reports. The Town is already doing a great deal of work that would appear to support the goals outlined.

She gave some examples such as:

- Complete the Recreation Capital Assessment and Improvement Plan funded at the 2022 FTM to identify capital needs for parks, playgrounds and fields.
- Complete an inventory of ways-to-water and create a prioritized list of improvements, administrative actions and use guidelines.
- Consider recreational opportunities and possible community center at the former Mattacheese Middle School as part of the re-use analysis.
- Update the Wetland Regulations to address vernal pools, floodplains and coastal resiliency zones.
- Evaluate participation in the Complete Streets Program and consider establishing a bicycle and pedestrian committee.

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- d. **2nd Public Meeting timeframe & meeting format:** The Committee discussed having a second workshop meeting on May 10th as April 12th may be too soon. The purpose of the workshop would be to vet the goals and action items developed by the Committee based on the initial survey/open house input. The Committee discussed whether it would be better to conduct a 2nd Survey to reach more people than a single Workshop. The Committee decided to keep the May 10th date as a placeholder and discuss the survey option in more detail at the next meeting.

Cassie Bethoney indicated that W&S would be updating the language of the plan concurrently in hopes of submitting a draft to the state in June. She also noted that they were working on digitizing the site evaluation forms. Kathy Williams discussed the need to conduct further review of the buildings that were locked and will coordinate with W&S.

3. Meeting Minutes:

- a. **January 27, 2023:** On a motion by Christine Marzigliano, and seconded by Ellie Lawrence, the OSRP Ad-Hoc Committee voted 3-0 to approve the meeting minutes for the January 27, 2023 meeting, with Will Rubenstein, Christine Marzigliano, and Ellie Lawrence voting in favor.
- b. **February 8, 2023 (Open House):** On a motion by Christine Marzigliano, and seconded by Ellie Lawrence, the OSRP Ad-Hoc Committee voted 3-0 to approve the meeting minutes for the February 8, 2023 meeting, with Will Rubenstein, Christine Marzigliano, and Ellie Lawrence voting in favor.

4. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. March 24, 2023
b. April 7, 2023

5. **Adjournment:** On a motion by Ellie Lawrence, and seconded by Christine Marzigliano, the OSRP Ad-Hoc Committee voted 3-0 to adjourn at 10:30 AM.

ATTACHMENTS

- March 10, 2023 OSRP Ad-Hoc Committee Agenda
- February 24, 2023 Memo from Weston & Sampson summarizing the Open Housing
- 2023 OSRP Survey Results
- Excerpts from 2021 Vision Plan including Vision Statement and Goals and Summary from 2nd Vision Plan Survey for the Environment and Recreation
- 2015 OSRP Action Plan
- Goal/Objective/Action Spreadsheet Working Document
- Draft Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2023 and February 8, 2023 (Open House)

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