

MINUTES

Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Committee Meeting

October 17, 2023

3:30pm – 5:00pm

**Meeting held in person at the Deerfield Town Hall, Conference Room
8 Conway St., South Deerfield, MA**

Present: Julie Caswell, Andrea Leibson, Susan Haff, Alan Swedlund (Absent: Lynn Rose)

Volunteers: Greg Henricks, Deborah Yaffe, Emily Johnson

Guests: Alain Peteroy and Liam Cregan, Franklin Land Trust

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approved Minutes from 9-19-2023 Meeting
3. Review Committee discussion with Deerfield Selectboard at its 10-4-2023 Meeting
 - a. Discussed that the response of Selectboard was very positive. Our discussion ended with the Selectboard expressing its strong consensus support of the OSRC approach to preservation and trail development for five town-owned parcels.
 - b. The Committee was advised to come back to the Selectboard when it has specific plans.
 - i. The Selectboard encouraged the Committee to further explore establishment of Conservation Restrictions on the 5 town-owned parcels discussed, and talk with the Franklin Land Trust regarding the holding and management of Conservation Restrictions.
 - ii. Committee should bring any legal or other questions to Kayce Warren or Chris Nolan, who will bring them to the Selectboard to decide how to proceed.
 - iii. Selectboard suggested the Committee work with:
 1. Energy Committee: possible revenue stream from carbon sequestration that could fund trails program.
 2. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness efforts.
 3. Grants related to water coming off the Pocumtuck Ridge.
4. Discuss with Alain Peteroy and Liam Cregan, Franklin Land Trust, preservation of, including seeking Conservation Restrictions on, and trail network development on five Town of Deerfield Parcels (Pocumtuck Rock, Pine Nook Memorial Forest, Steam Mill Forest, Birchwood Nature Refuge, and Deerfield River Off Mill Village Road)
 - a. Alain and Liam described due diligence needed as part of the process of establishing Conservation Restrictions, including (per parcel) title examination (about \$500) and

certification (about \$250), and surveying, if needed (could be as much as \$20,000-\$25,000).

- b. If Franklin Land Trust held the Conservation Restrictions, it is the steward. Would have a baseline report on the parcel, and an agreement on prohibited and permitted uses. The Trust would evaluate compliance annually. It usually asks for a one-time stewardship donation of \$5,000 plus \$25 per acre to help cover stewardship costs.
 - c. Alain, Liam, and Committee discussed opportunities for grants for the initial due diligence phase at the state level, such as Conservation Partnership Grants and LAND Grants; town sources such as Community Preservation Act funds; and partnerships with MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and MA Fisheries and Wildlife.
 - d. The Trust and Committee will continue to discuss opportunities for collaboration.
5. Discuss Outreach to Stakeholders, Draft of Letter to Stakeholders and Other Means of Outreach
- a. Return to this topic at next meeting. Discussed building of community input into, knowledge of, and support of Committee project ideas.
6. Close Meeting
- a. Next meeting set for November 14, 2023, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
 - b. Adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Minutes taken by Julie Caswell.