

ROCKLAND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING 2.24.2025, 6:30 p.m., Main Hearing Room Town Offices
Attending: Donald Cann, Chair, Mike Bromberg, Vice-Chair, Rick Snee, Pam Titus, Kathy Kirby, Justin Bodio- Park Commissioner; Park Commissioners Richard Furlong, Joe Reis, Brian Martin; Lorraine Pratt- Conservation Commission; Scott Cabien- Rockland Girls' Softball

Mr. Cann opened the meeting with administrative matters. He advised that Mr. Anderson was unable to attend for medical reasons and Ms. Quinn was attending a wake. Mr. Bromberg motioned for approval, Ms. Titus seconded minutes of the 2/6/25 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Bromberg made a presentation of the history of legislative provision for and developer promises regarding amenities for the Town at the former SWNAS. To date, these have not been realized. Ch. 291 of the Acts of 2014 requires that "(4) passive and active recreational facilities shall be included in the further development of NAS South Weymouth, with such facilities to be of the type identified in the reuse plan." Concern exists that the current developer will seek to eliminate the amenities requirement in new legislation. The Select Board has asked that desired amenities be identified. In addition to playing fields and playgrounds in residential areas, the need for a dog park and restrooms at athletic facilities was discussed. 6 baseball fields, 4-5 softball fields, 2-3 soccer fields, 1 football field, 2-3 multiuse fields and pickleball courts were identified. Mr. Furlong indicated that the Park Department will make a complete list of desired amenities.

Mr. Cann advised that the renewal of the Open Space and Recreation Plan is in progress and that a committee of interested boards and commissions is needed to work on it. Attendees were asked to contact Town Planner, Ms. Quinn, regarding participation.

The CPA Committee, in considering the potential acquisition of Camp Alice Carleton, has asked that a Land Maintenance Plan be instituted for Town-owned properties. It was agreed that the Conservation Commission would be responsible for the properties, with the ability to delegate maintenance to the Park Department as Conservation has no personnel or equipment of its own to do the work. Mr. O'Donnell of the CPA suggested that it may be best to bring this proposal before Town Meeting so that, as the Town acquires more land and the duties of the Park Department increase, the need for an increased budget would not come as a surprise to voters. Mr. MacFaden of Wildlands Trust, holder of the Conservation Restriction at McCarthy Farm, indicated that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Conservation Commission and the Park Department should be sufficient. It was agreed that Attorney Galvin, Land Use Counsel should be advising the Town on the best method to proceed. It was also agreed that one unified plan should be made, with separate sections defining maintenance needs for the various properties owned by the Town. Ms. Pratt said that the Conservation Commission should draft the plan and provide it to the Park Department for input. She is arranging to meet with a forester to walk the properties to identify seasonal needs. She was asked to communicate with Ms. Quinn about plans.

The OSC agreed to meet with Mr. Saunders of Norwell Open Space. Melanie Ritson-Monks was introduced to all. She has volunteered for the OSC and is scheduled for appointment.

Scott MacFadden

Rick Snee

Peter Ewell

Lorraine Pratt

Justin Bodio

Brian Martin

Richard Furlong

Joe Reis

Scott Cabren

Pam Tuttle

Melanie Ritson-Monks

Mike Bromberg

Mary Parsons

Steven O'Donnell, Jr.

Kathy Kirby

Steve O'Donnell

Wildlands Trust

Open Space

Tax Payer

Conservation

Park Superintendent

Park Commissioner

Park

Park

Ruelle and Girls Garden

Open Space

Open Space

Open Space

resident

Community Preservation

Open Space

CPA