

Town of Great Barrington

Open Space and Recreation Plan Task Force

Approved Minutes of 6/17/2019

Location: Town Hall

Start: 6:02 End: 7:00

PRESENT:

Member Name		Staff Name	
Pedro Pachano	X	Chris Rembold	X
Jovanina Pagano	X		
Kate Burke	X		
Kate Van Alst	X		
Andrew Didio	X		
Elizabeth Hirsch	X		
Jennifer Connell	O		

X = present O = absent Ph = phone attendance

Note taker: Jovanina Pagano

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION/FOLLOW-UP NEXT DEADLINE
Introductions	Members introduced themselves. Chris Rembold read a welcome / thank you for volunteering note to the members, written by the Town Manager.	
Elections	Pedro Pachano volunteer himself for Committee Chair. Kate Van Olst moved, Kate Burke seconded, All in favor. Elizabeth Hirsch volunteered herself for Vice-Chair. Pedro moved, seconded by Jovanina, All in favor.	
Discussion of the	The workbook shows MA towns what needs to be included in an open space	

MA DCR OSPR workbook	<p>plan. The plan needs to be revisited every 5 years in order to be eligible for certain funds. DCR needs to know that GB's priorities are well thought out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demographics now and moving forward, • town history and geographic layout and constraints (what can be developed and where? What has already been developed, Etc) • needs and priorities <p>DCR wants to know that the plan is based on real data, that there has been community outreach and is based on authentic community needs.</p> <p>Last 10-12 years, our plans have been comprehensive and well-done. Good basis to work with as the task force moves forward with the process. Chris thinks we should focus on visions and goals for the town and the needs and priorities.</p>	
Review of last OSRP; changes since the last plan	<p>There was quite a bit of outreach, part of the master plan process. 2-3 years of diverse research – surveys, in-person meetings, seeking out folks in different milieus. Public outreach was robust. Also reached out to partner interest groups – trails organizations, sportsmen groups, etc.</p> <p>Task force should ensure that we are reaching out to the whole population.</p> <p>BRPC has started to update the plan - zoning, maps, increase of protected lands (Flag Rock, properties on Stockbridge Road, State Road property)</p> <p>We have a lot of parks, but people don't know a lot about them. This could be something that the task force puts in the plan.</p> <p>Current plan is expired, so even though there isn't a deadline for the completion of this OSRP, it should be done as soon as possible. The town still uses current, expired plan to support applications for certain funding.</p> <p>The biggest part of this job is community outreach – Kate: this is a good time to survey people, while they are actively using the open spaces.</p>	Chris will send the TF the estimates of GB's current population; he will also send all of the updated information that has been done so far by BRPC.
Outreach and other items to update Plan	<p>Some ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big outreach meeting to possibly cover multiple town issues • Reaching out to existing partners with existing events and stakeholders: BNRC, BEAT, GB Land Conservancy, Trails Alliance, HVA. 	
Timeline	<p>Start planning a community-wide meeting now, though maybe simultaneously develop and disseminate a survey and have the community meeting be a place where we present the findings of the survey. The meeting could be then the honing of the public's priorities and help the task force identify common needs and priorities for the town. We can use the survey</p> <p>Chris has the previous survey.</p>	Chris will send the previous survey and a draft timeline

	<p>Draft plan – what’s the process? Public review? Selectboard? Planning Board? Chris would like both the SB and the PB should approve it; he also thinks Parks and Rec and Con Com should approve it. Doesn’t need to go through Town Meeting.</p> <p>Then it gets sent to the state and it gets approved.</p>	
Other areas of discussion	<p>We can put in the plan: 1) issues of accessibility – not just accessible for those who are disabled, but accessible as far as transportation; 2) Spanish language list of parks and open spaces;</p> <p>Could a DCR grant help the town put together a website or page to inform citizens and others about all the parks? Possible...</p> <p>? What happens with the follow-through on the plan? Chris: depends on resources. Combination of town staff working with volunteer committees and commissions. Kate B: we should keep that in mind as we’re visioning and writing, otherwise it’s just a vision and not a working, workable plan.</p> <p>A well thought out OSRP could make the case for town funding that would be necessary and key to implement.</p>	
Next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will review previous survey • Look at the partner list • Identify and divide up responsibilities 	Everyone will review everything that Chris sends for the next meeting!
Citizen’s Speak	None	

Minutes submitted by: Jovanina Pagano