

# Open Space and Recreation Plan Task Force

Minutes of 7/29/2019

Location: Town Hall

TOWN CLERK  
GREAT BARRINGTON  
AUG 22 2019 AM 9:36

Start: 6:06 PM

End: 7:14 PM

**Present:** Kate Burke (Selectboard rep), Jennifer Connell (Citizen rep), Andrew Didio (Cons Comm rep), Elizabeth Hirsch (Parks rep), Pedro Pachano (PB rep), Jovanina Pagano (Citizen rep), Kate Van Olst (Citizen rep), and Town Planner Chris Rembold

**Absent:** none

ITEM / ISSUE	DISCUSSION, DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION / FOLLOW-UP, OR DEADLINE
Call to Order	Pedro called the meeting to order at 6:06	
Introductions	Members welcomed Jennifer Connell who was not present at the first meeting.	
Minutes	Liz moved approval of the minutes from June 17, 2019, Kate VO seconded, all were in favor.	
Review Demographics	<p>Chris distributed a demographic summary from the US Census 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. He said it's estimated the Town population is slowly decreasing, but not shrinking too much, and not as dramatically as the rest of South Berkshire County or the rest of the County as a whole. He said Census population estimate is about the same as the Town Clerk's estimate, so he thinks they're pretty accurate counts.</p> <p>Chris said that in terms of age distribution, the Town's young population is fairly steady in contrast to the rest of the County but the population is also aging. He said the percentage of Hispanic or Latino is also growing.</p> <p>Pedro asked how the population distribution mattered, since we should meet the needs of everyone. Kate B. said different populations may use the parks in different ways or have different needs. She said we should be planning for multigenerational spaces.</p> <p>Kate VO asked whether we should be accounting for the non-resident population. There are a lot of people here that use our parks but are not counted as residents. Jovanina said it's all linked; the tourist economy is a jobs generator and tourists come here for the open space. We should think holistically. Connell agreed saying we should plan for the bigger picture.</p> <p>Chris said the population characteristics may also influence how we plan to reach out to people and gather information.</p>	
Review Land Use changes	<p>Chris said more land is protected now than in 2013, since there have been significant acquisitions by the land conservancies including the Trustees, GBLC, and BNRC. He said there are future possibilities in the works to connect to the high school area.</p> <p>He said the recent USDA agricultural census may good data too. He will try to have a comparison chart next time.</p>	Chris - comparison chart

Review of previous plan	<p>Jovanina suggested that next time we review what has been accomplished from the last OSRP and what still needs to be done. Chris will prepare a summary of the actions taken on the last plan, to be reviewed at the next meeting.</p> <p>There was also a question about whether the 2013 vision carried over from the previous plan vision. Chris suggested that the vision for the new plan may be determined by the surveys and public outreach.</p>	Chris - summary of actions
Timeline	The task force discussed the draft timeline for this planning process that Chris distributed, including a survey process and two community meetings in the fall and winter.	
Surveys	<p>All agreed that for surveys, getting the word out is important. We should use media, our committee meetings, the library, Shopper's Guide, facebook, radio, and in person outreach like at the Farmer's Market. Perhaps there are town owned ipads/tablets we can use for people to take surveys when we are tabling at events. We can also work with our partners to send our survey around.</p> <p>Jennifer suggested surveys be online but also in paper format.</p> <p>Liz said she would said up a google doc with a partner list, and task force members can sign up for which ones they will contact.</p> <p>Chris will look at examples of OSRP surveys from elsewhere. He will send samples to the task force.</p> <p>Liz suggested we ask our committees what should be in the surveys. Pedro said he would collate the suggestions.</p> <p>Pedro said he hopes for 1,500 survey responses.</p> <p>There was a discussion about advertising the surveys and how we can capture people's attention so they respond.</p> <p>Andrew suggested the surveys should ask for emails, so we can keep people informed.</p>	<p>Liz - google doc</p> <p>Chris - samples</p> <p>Ask your committees for survey input, send responses Pedro, and Pedro will collate</p>
Community Meetings	<p>Chris suggested two community meetings be held to share information and solicit feedback. The first meeting would review existing conditions, survey responses and develop thoughts for a Vision statement and Goals.</p> <p>Pedro suggested the second meeting or survey could be used to verify what we have learned.</p> <p>Liz suggested the meetings might have breakout sessions by neighborhood.</p> <p>Pedro thought having maps at the meeting for people to interact with and write on is a good exercise, like we did with the Complete Streets event.</p>	
Citizens Speak	None	
Next meeting	<p>Topics include review action plan / accomplishments since last OSRP, and also review surveys and finalize our survey questions.</p> <p>Next Meeting Wednesday August 21 at 6:00 PM</p>	Meet 8/21 at 6

Minutes submitted by: 