



**Ashland Open
Space and
Recreation
Committee**

Roberta Soolman,
Chairperson

William Child

Martin Ring

Judith Sallet

Amy Sayed

Jeanne Walker

Greg Wands

Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2022
Remote via Zoom

Members Present: William Child, Martin Ring, Judith Sallet, Amy Sayed, Roberta Soolman, Jeanne Walker, Greg Wands

Guest: Mark Dassoni (arrived at 8:03 pm)

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Soolman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. via Zoom.

Updates and next steps

- **Riverwalk**

There was no update from Ms. Ball regarding Green Engineering's proposal for the second bridge to cross the Sudbury River and connect at Marathon Park.

Ms. Soolman provided information about a Planning Board site walk of the VFW solar array project that abuts the Riverwalk scheduled for March 23, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Committee members discussed the value of the project for sustainable and renewable energy and emphasized the vital importance of having proper screening for the Riverwalk as well as the abutters to preserve the natural setting. Upon motion made by Mr. Ring and seconded by Ms. Sallet, the OSRC voted 7-0-0 to ask the Planning Board to require the entire solar array to be screened from view from the opposite site of the Sudbury River by natural growth.

The committee expressed concern about the Mill Building development that abuts the Sudbury River and is across the street from the Riverwalk and Mill Pond. Members were concerned about preserving the open space and the river and ensuring sufficient screening. By consensus, the committee gave Ms. Soolman permission to send emails or other communications expressing the committee's concerns with the project.

- **Town Forest Committee update re sponsorship of event on April 30, 2022**

Ms. Soolman explained that the OSRC will receive 2 tickets to the indoor portion of the Talk and Walk with Tom Wessels event as part of the OSRC sponsorship. She will send more information to the committee when received.

- **Valentine Estate – Conservation Restriction and Restoration**

There was no information to share.

- **Town Meeting Warrant – closed March 4; future endorsements**

Ms. Sayed reported there are no CPC projects on the warrant.

- **OSRP – conversation with Select Board Chair (Mr. Magnani)**



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Ms. Soolman shared her conversation with Mr. Magnani regarding the Select Board's request for the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.

- **Bay Circuit Trail (Mr. Child)**
The winter was quiet on the trail and there's a new Bay Circuit Trail Coordinator. Mr. Child will check on the status of the OSRC's dues.
- **Community Preservation Committee (Ms. Sayed)**
No project updates to report. The CPC now has a representative from the Historic Commission after more than two years with the seat being vacant.
- **Land Stewardship Committee (Mr. Wands)**
The committee will start spring clean-up when the ground is firmer.
- **Stormwater Management Committee (Ms. Walker)**
No update. Did not meet because of there was no quorum. Meeting has been re-scheduled.
- **Upper Charles Trail Committee (Mr. Ring):**
No update since last meeting.
- **Conservation Restriction Working Group (Mr. Ring, Ms. Sallet)**
Group still cannot meet because there is no quorum due to vacancies in positions that are designated to be filled by town staff but are unlikely to be filled. The committee is unable to move forward without town support.

Approval of minutes from August 16, 2021 and February 8, 2022

Deferred to a future meeting.

Adjourn

Upon motion by Mr. Ring, seconded by Ms. Sallet, the OSRC voted (7-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Soolman