

**Draft
FOSP
Public Forum**

Item 4 of the charge from the Town Council to the FOSP Committee is:

4. FOSP shall conduct a public workshop with the CFA and CELT focusing on actions that both protect open space and promote sustainable farming, without constraining farmers' opportunities and infringing on private property rights.

The FOSP Committee elected to broaden this charge to include all members of the public. FOSP made a special effort to reach out to CFA and CELT members by sending them an invitation, which was emailed by their committee representatives to their memberships. In addition, a press release was sent to all the local newspapers and also posted on the town website.

The public forum was held on March 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Members of the committee presented different elements of the committee charge, draft Range of Tools and Open Space Priority Criteria using a powerpoint presentation.

The bulk of the public forum was devoted to public comment. Eleven members of the public attended the forum and a meeting summary is included in this report. Some of the comments included:

- Including sports fields as an open space priority;
- Incorporating open space/village green concept into the Library project;
- Inquiring how the tools would be used to preserve agricultural assets;
- Liaising with the state in managing invasive plants at Crescent Beach;
- Questioning how the town process for applying open space criteria will work;
- Questioning funding, such as a land bond;
- Expressing disfavor for a key parcels list approach;

The forum ended with questions about the upcoming telephone survey. Attendees asked about opportunities for input if they are not called and the committee agreed that additional opportunities as the open space planning work continues.

Recommendation: FOSP recommends that the ongoing open space efforts include a public participation component.

Appendix: Public Forum Summary

Powerpoint presentation (?)