

DRAFT Open Space and Greenbelt Management Committee

Public Forum

May 26, 2011 7:00 pm.

Dena DeSena, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

The committee members presented an overview of the plan as follows:

- Mrs. DeSena outlined the Council Charge/ Purpose and Vision.
- Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner, spoke about the Open Space overview/ connectivity and showed maps of the areas.
- Marti Blair gave a presentation about the Activity/ Facility Chart.
- Dick Bauman outlined the Management Policies and the Trail Conditions.
- Signage/ Hours of Operation was covered by John Planisek
- Jessica Sullivan spoke about Encroachments, Vegetation damage and Removal, Rubbish, Litter, Sewerage and Animal Refuse, Work Alterations/ Improvements to Public Land. She also addressed the topics of Hunting/ Fishing/ Trapping and Camping, and the topic of Horses.
- The final topic of Fires and Alcohol, Social Gatherings/ Weddings, and Closure of Open Space was covered by Garvan Donegan.

Mrs. DeSena then opened the meeting to public comments.

Diane Shevenell asked if there is a specific season for bow hunting.

Ms. O'Meara informed her that the State has rules covering hunting.

Ray Shevenell asked if someone put up a bow hunting tree hut, must it come down after each hunting season.

Ms. O'Meara replied that the rules of the Town came straight out of the State Law covering hunting.

Mr. Shevenell then inquired about invasive species, and wanted to know some examples.

He was told of Bittersweet and he was informed of the Conservation Commission's work over the past decade to get rid of Purple Loosestrife.

Louise Sullivan spoke up to offer congratulations to the Committee and Ms. O'Meara. She also asked for clarification of the overall goal of the Committee.

Mrs. DeSena outlined the goal of stewardship of the land.

Mrs. Sullivan replied that they have done a great job.

Mrs. DeSena gave a lot of credit to Ms. O'Meara.

Mrs. Sullivan asked if it is Ms. O'Meara's goal to connect the entire town with trails.

Ms. O'Meara replied that the goal is from Fort Williams to Crescent Beach.

Mrs. Sullivan then wanted to know the laws about walking on the beach.

Ms. O'Meara explained about the low and high water lines and access for fishing, fowling and navigation, and commented that in reply to her earlier question, this map is not a map of goals, but a map of where we are now.

Richard Sullivan asked about a snowmobile trail that goes to the Spurwink marsh in the winter, but not in the dry season.

Mrs. DeSena replied that it is all private property and you need to get the owner's permission to cross.

Mr. Sullivan also wanted to know how you can tell what a trail is like.

Mrs. DeSena spoke about a couple of nice trails for walking and then said there will be a website that you will be able to click and get maps and information about each area.

Mrs. Sullivan asked about removal of a tree that was on Town land that fell over on their fence during a storm. Was it OK to remove it?

Ms. O'Meara said they had the right to remove it from their property, and it is a help if people remove downed trees from the trails.

Martha Gross wondered why the Town would need a survey every year.

The reply was that the Town will only survey a portion of their lands each year over a 10 year span.

Ms. Gross asked if the Town has their own surveyor. (no) Then she suggested that the kids at the Vo-Tech in Portland might be a good resource for assistance on a variety of projects.

Mrs. Shevenell asked to be clear that no ATV's are allowed on any of the trails. When she was told that they were only used for trail maintenance, she said they are used at Gull Crest at night sometimes.

Mr. Sullivan expressed interest in volunteer opportunities. He also suggested that the Cape Courier would be a good place to have people sign up on a list as an interested volunteer.

Marilyn Kristiansen wondered how to handle the issue of ATV's.

The reply was to notify the police.

Ms. Kristiansen also noted that parking at some trails is hard to find.

She was told that many of the trails are intended to be accessed by walking to them from their residences. Parking is generally allowed on the streets.

Mrs. Shevenell asked how to give comments to the Committee after tonight.

She was informed that she can phone or email Ms. O'Meara, who would then forward those suggestions to the Committee.

No further public comments and the meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi Dolliver

Minutes Secretary