

Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission

January 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 7:04 PM by Ginger Lacy

Present: Dennis Culberson, Brian Janes, Ginger Lacy, Gayle Lawrence, Garry Plunkett, Jim Spears and Phil Schuyler

Guests : Barbara Pelletier, Susan Gill and Andrew Teitz

Administrative Announcements and Reports

Lacy invited Barbara Pelletier to speak about the upcoming visit from CH 6 News for a segment she secured for Tiverton as part of the features on RI communities they televise. Plunkett will participate to share information on Fort Barton and Weetamoo Woods. Pelletier's goal is to enhance Tiverton's image as a destination for tourists. Visit will be January 23 at 11:00 AM.

Order of business interrupted for Executive Session at 7:17 PM. Motion to move to Executive Session by Janes/Schuyler. All approved.

Regular session resumed at 7:50 PM on motion by Plunkett/Lawrence, All approved.

Pelletier continued her presentation and various points of interest in

Tiverton were identified.

She indicated that she has also sought a 3 year grant from RI Foundation. If awarded, she suggested some funds could be used to develop a book on Tiverton's history.

Plunkett/Spears motioned to approve December 16, 2013 meeting minutes. All approved.

Lawrence distributed a draft document outlining a procedure for managing the minutes, agendas and other TOSC documents for everyone's consideration. Lawrence will contact Town Clerk regarding protocol for Executive Session minutes. Additional discussion and input in Feb.

Treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Culberson.

Acknowledgements for donations from the Shinn Family Foundation and the Fred Musone Family have been sent by Lacy and Plunkett, respectively. Letter from Town to Musone filed.

Janes asked if the Town Treasurer's office had been contacted regarding expenditures from TOSC accounts without our knowledge. Culberson indicated he had clarified this with that office. Culberson also indicated that the treasurer's reports are now provided to him electronically.

Plunkett announced RI Land Trust Alliance, “Land and Water Conference” is March 8, 2014 at URI. Register on-line.

Tiverton Land Trust Annual Meeting is Sunday, April 27 at Meeting House. Christian Mc Burney, author and historian, will speak on Tiverton’s place in the Revolutionary War.

Susan Gill informed members of presentation on February 11, 2014, 6-8 pm by Tiverton Business Forum at Four Corners Meeting House. Marcel Valois, Jody Sullivan and Scott Humphrey are guest speakers.

Gill also indicated that Newport will be the only port in North America to be visited by the Volvo Ocean Race competitors in May 2015. She invited TOSC to help promote Tiverton to the multi-national audience expected to attend this event.

Plunkett attended recent Budget Committee meeting. Committee members were enthused about TOSC accomplishments. Given the Town’s serious budget constraints, Plunkett suggested to the Committee that volunteers could handle painting of Fort Barton tower, thus removing \$1,000 from our request for 2014-2015, if need be, which would result in TOSC being level-funded from last year’s appropriation.

Pocassetlands Stewardship Fund annual report tabled until data arrives from RI Foundation.

Stewardship Reports

- **Weetamoo Woods:** routine maintenance
- **High Hill Point:** Lacy reported “Notice of Assent” has been received from CRMC for invasive species control.
- **Highland Woods:** Plunkett reported initial clearing of loop trail has been completed.
- **Fort Barton:** Schuyler has repaired cross-ties on bridge in back on longer blue trail and cleaned up the blue trail. He will bring the box of original flyers he has to Town Hall.
- **Pocasset Ridge:** no report.

Old Business

- **Weetamoo Woods Memorials:** Work continues. Plunkett awaits input from collaborators.
- **Draft of 2013 TOSC Annual Report:** reviewed with two suggested modifications:
Item 1 in grant section Jim Goncalo’s name will be added and award of \$208,000 specified.

Item 2 will note: RIDEM Trails Grant award of \$100,000 for acquisition of open space

Lacy will complete and submit to Town Administrator, Nancy Mello, for 1/20/14 deadline.

• **Comprehensive Community Plan:** Plunkett requested members review and provide input for the open space portion of the comprehensive plan that is being updated. He noted importance of thinking out 20 years or more as we consider existing plan. Short discussion followed noting management needs, targeted acquisitions, budgeting, global warming impact on marshlands. Chapters 9, 4, and 5 are of particular interest. Complete plan is on Town website, link is on Planning Board page.

o Janes indicated need to review latest zoning maps for properties that are designated open space and to again review specifics of existing zoning ordinances related to open space and agricultural lands.

o Janes pointed out that the Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Plan of 1988 needs to be re-done. It requires a collaborative effort with each commission participating.

• **Highland Woods Vision Study:** Plunkett indicated upcoming meeting with an abutter.

Motion to adjourn: Schuyler/Lacy at 9:30 pm. All approved.

Recorded by Lawrence