

**Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission  
Minutes of January 19, 2015 Meeting at Town Hall, Tiverton, RI**

**Convened: 7:05 pm Present: Dennis Culberson, Brian Janes, Garry Plunkett, Gayle Lawrence, Jim Spears and Martin VanHof, Ginger Lacy.**

**Administrative Announcements and Reports**

- The December 2014 regular and executive session meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.**
- Treasurer's report: Treasurer notes that refund of excess monies withdrawn from the acquisition account has not been returned. Janes reports that approximately \$55,000 is due and agreed to contact the Treasurer. The Treasurer's report was accepted.**
- Lacy presented a budget for 2015-16 which was submitted to the Town Administrator (pending TOSC approval) in order to meet a deadline. The amounts were the same as last year (Open Space, 6210-8015 for \$3400 and Ft. Barton, 6210-8025 for \$3200). Motion to "Approve budget as submitted to the Town Administrator on January 7, 2015" was made by Lawrence, seconded by Plunkett. Unanimously approved.**
- Lacy advised everyone of the upcoming (March) Land & Water Summit.**
- Lawrence requested missing executive session minutes for the archive: April (Janes), May (VanHof) and September (Culberson).**

## **Stewardship Reports**

**A. Weetamoo Woods:** Lawrence raised questions regarding the annual mowing practices for the Weetamoo meadow, wondering if alternate procedures may be more ecologically beneficial. Plunkett agreed to explore options and report back with alternatives.

Plunkett discussed continuing meadow restoration efforts along with annual maintenance needs. Also, invasive control on all TOSC properties was reviewed. A funding strategy was proposed and discussed. Following discussion Janes moved, Lawrence seconded, that “Up to \$2200 from the Open Space Stewardship account be approved for expenditure on invasive control and site improvements, as discussed, to Weetamoo meadow and Ft. Barton Woods.” Motion approved unanimously. Also Janes moved, Plunkett seconded that “\$400 be allocated from the annual Open Space budget for annual brush hog of the Weetamoo meadow perimeter.” Motion approved unanimously.

**B. High Hill Point:** No report.

**C. Highland Woods:** Plunkett provided copies of the final Master Plan report. Next steps to implement plan were discussed. Also noted was the need for representatives to the oversight committee as dictated by the MOU. Culberson and VanHof were unanimously elected.

**D. Fort Barton Woods:** Plunkett reported that Fred Johnson has been assisting to monitor illegal activities in the area. Also, Neighbor Benny Beaudoin called Plunkett last Saturday to report that the opening in the wall along the property border which we previously repaired had been reopened again. Plunkett agreed to post a “Public

**Property Ends Here” sign at that location.**

**E. Pocasset Ridge: No report**

**Old Business**

**None.**

**New Business**

**A. Highland Woods Master plan discussed during Stewardship report.**

**B. Unified Signage: Plunkett raised question whether all open space areas in Tiverton (not just TOSC properties) should not have a more unified approach to signage. There was a lengthy discussion of various aspects regarding consistency of signage, naming conventions (e.g., named trails versus color coded trails), the need to differentiate land owners/managers on each property for the user of that land, etc. Consensus was reached to assign the topic to the newly created Highland Woods Oversight Committee. The rationale was to see if anything could first be established within the Highland Woods/Ft. Barton Woods area.**

**Executive Session: None; minutes of the December executive session were approved as amended.**

**Adjournment: At 9:08 pm a motion to adjourn was approved unanimously (Lacy/Spears).**

**Submitted by B. Janes**