

Minutes of the Westhampton Open Space & Recreation Plan Advisory Committee

December 15, 2021 6:30 pm

Westhampton Town Hall, 1 South Road

Present: Bob LaPalme, Jessica Lerman, Jennifer Milikowsky, Fred Morrison, Kate Parsons, Laurie Sanders, John Zimmerman; **Guests:** Alan and Dale Kasal and consultants Chris Curtis and Pete Westover

Laurie Sanders opened the meeting at 6:35 pm and welcomed everyone. For this initial meeting, each person introduced themselves and explained their area of interest and background. Laurie then describe the past report and goals of this updated version, both in terms of its relationship to the Comprehensive plan and the integration of climate change science into defining goals and action steps. Dale expressed her interest in integrating recreation initiatives. Jen Milikowsky offered to lead a bird walk on her property next summer and Bob LaPalme had previously offered to lead a walk on the 116-acre Hilltown Land Trust property.

At 7:00 pm, the advisory committee welcomed consultants Chris Curtis and Pete Westover of Conservation Works. They introduced themselves and committee members did the same. Chris described the state-mandated required elements. Pete explained the benefits of an updated plan in terms of grants and sources of funding for landowners interested in conservation. Both explained how open space linkages contribute to wildlife habitat (connectivity), trail protection and links, and farm protection. Pete mentioned that APR funding is

Bob LaPalme asked about updated FIRM floodplain maps in light of higher frequency of severe storms.

With Chris and Pete, all present began reviewing the draft questionnaire to send out to the public electronically. Many committee members liked elements of the Williamsburg questionnaire. It was decided that a DRAFT survey will be posted, along with other OSRP related materials, on a Google drive. Everyone will be able to help shape the questions and organization, with the goal being that at the next meeting, the survey would be ready for approval.

**NEXT Meeting WILL BE IN THE
WESTHAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM ON JANUARY 20, 2022 AT 7 PM.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted Laurie Sanders