**Open Spaces and Recreation Plan**

**10 Mechanic Street Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday March 21st, 2024**

**Meeting In-Person and Via Zoom**

*This was a continuation of the February 15th, 2024 OSRP meeting that began the review of the 2017 Open Spaces and Recreation Plan in order to determine what has been done, and what still needs to be done in creating the coming five-year plan.*

Attendees:

Hannah Crawford, Nicole Rutkowski, Denis Fraine, Sean Harrington, David Ahnert, Claudia Decker, Kaya Sahin

*Administrator Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.*

**Map Draft No. 2**

The map displayed is not on the 2017 plan, the map is for Environmental Justice based off the 2020 census in Bellingham. Areas of lower income and minority areas are marked primarily out on the map.

The committee would like to change the colors of open space on the map, in relation to these communities to see if they have access to open space.

**Map Draft No. 7**

This map displays rare and endangered species.

Arrianna has requested for the the Vernal pools (possibly grouped with the natural communities) add niche natural heritage vernal pools.

Hannah has requested that wooded swamp and wetlands are changed by separating to a dark green and light green.

**Map Draft No. X**

This map displays Bellingham's Water Supply system.

Arianne expresses that some wells and some listed may not be active anymore. Sean agreed that there may be some incorrect well placements on the map.

The committee agrees that the map needs updating regarding a lot of the map's elements.

**Map No. X (Bedrock Geology)**

The map shows what rock is under the topsoil across Bellingham.

**Map No. 3**

This map shows the Surficial Geology.

The committee likes this map which shows impervious surfaces, instead of the no impervious feature map.

**Proposed Action Plan**

The committee is looking to prioritize what is the most important to the town by ranking the items on the action plan.

Challenges for open space in Bellingham, most commonly was bathrooms, information, trail access, upkeep, safety, parking, and accessibility.

***Subcategories***

Parking: A large concern at open space sites

ADA: More accessible access to all people, DPW is responsible for some of this work

Unprotected town properties: Doesn't cost town anything (taking donations). Lower on priorities

Any vacant parcels that the commission seeks will finish the taking process.

Better OS agreements with developers: Is the town acquiring land part of their agreements with developers that is useful land. Improve language on agreements to confirm the land is valuable.

Current Recreation Sites: Prioritize which locations need to be improved before others. Pickleball was a recreation site created from common interests.

Programming: Creating Leagues and running camps. It might not be feasible in 5 years without a parks and rec department.

Communication: More information on website for open space. Using Social media. Possible newsletters sign up.

**Next meeting**

Monthly meeting continuing. Need to hand in rough draft in September and open forum in June.

Committe will rank the proposed action plane on level of importance to prioritize.

***Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.***

*Minutes submitted by Kaya-Erkan Sahin.*