

Town of Rowe
Open Space and Recreation Plan Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2022 at 6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Committee Members- Laurie Pike, Dana Williams, and Alex Reisman
Audience of Citizens: None

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is a town document that is required to be submitted with the Department of Conservation and Recreation in order to be eligible for all conservation and recreation grants in the state of Massachusetts.

Funding

Laurie reached out to Kimberly MacPhee at FRCOG and was informed that there is a District Local Technical Assistance fund available through Franklin County Regional Government that could provide up to \$5,000 for assistance with the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Laurie will contact Janice at the town hall to inquire about filling out the request form and getting it submitted.

Another source of possible funding is the Conservation for Small Communities Grant that will provide reimbursement for 80% of the total cost for developing and submitting this plan. This grant is available to Mass communities with 6,000 or fewer residents. In order to apply for this grant you must also apply for a PARC grant as well during the fiscal 2023 year. Questions about when it would be appropriate to apply for this grant and how to estimate a total cost will be directed to Melissa Cryan of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

Other possible funding sources may include the Community Compact Program or town funding. Will discuss the need to approach the Select Board for town funding for this project after finding out what other towns do for funding.

Additional Members Needed

It was agreed that additional members to this committee are needed. We will run an ad in the Goal Post the next several months and perhaps can do a town-wide call for volunteers in the meantime. The best way to get volunteers may be recruiting individuals with expertise in certain parts of the plan to agree to do sections of the plan. We will talk to the Town Clerk about requirements to be on the OSRP committee.

Organization of the Writing Process

The committee members chose sections of the plan to begin reviewing and writing. We will use various resources for information such as the Heath Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Rowe Forest Stewardship Plan, the Rowe Town History, and Assessors' mapping system.

Meetings

Next meeting will be scheduled for February 14, 2022 at 6:30 PM. It will be a Zoom Meeting and the agenda will be posted 48 hours in advance. Minutes from this meeting will be approved by roll-call vote at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Pike

(The January 28, 2022 OSRP meeting minutes were approved at the February 14, 2022 OSRP meeting by roll call vote.)