

Rowe Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

Meeting with FRCOG

June 17, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via zoom

In Attendance: Laurie Pike, Dana Williams, and Alex Reisman (members of the Rowe Open Space and Recreation Committee) also Tamsin Flanders from the Franklin County Regional Council of Government

Audience of citizens: Rick Williams (Rowe Assessors Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm. Tamsin reviewed the Scope of Work that FRCOG staff would be helping us with. She advised us that we would need to have enough money left from the DLTA fund of \$7,000 to complete a Story Map which is one of the deliverables for the fund. The bulk of the funds will be used to develop, distribute, and collect the results of a town-wide survey to determine a set of goals for the future use and protection of the town's open spaces. Tamsin also had sent the committee a list of tasks that could be worked on for the OSRP report. Those tasks include a piece on the Scenic Resources and Unique Environments that Laurie and Dana will put together. Dana will complete a list of current invasive plant species. Laurie will write a piece on the town's recreational assets and Alex will work on sections A.3 parts 3 and 4.

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the draft survey for community input to determine a set of town goals for the Open Space and Recreation Plan. A discussion ensued as to the best way to distribute the survey to achieve a high rate of return. Some ideas included putting a digital copy of the survey on the town website that can be accessed by community members. It was suggested that paper copies could be mailed to those who do not use the internet and/or paper copies could be made available at the town hall, library, park, and elementary school. Drop boxes to return copies could also be placed in those areas. It was decided that a three week return time should be given to encourage a quick return. If necessary the time could then be extended another couple of weeks. To let the community know about the purpose and importance of the survey a notice could be put in the monthly Goal Post newsletter, a series of town-wide calls could be made to the community members, and notices could be placed on the Park, Library, and School Face Book pages. Postage, paper, and bulk mailing should be around \$200-\$400 and will be paid for with money from the DLT fund. There was a discussion about whether the survey could be included in the monthly Goal Post but it was noted that it may be too many pages for that to work. The hope is that the committee can meet with Tamsin in early August to finalize the survey and begin distribution the first part of September. Notice about the survey could also be given at the August town-wide movie night at the Park and the Owl Presentation for residents on September 3rd at the park.

Alex made a number of suggestions and comments on the survey draft as well as Laurie so the team went through the draft line by line to reconcile the final product. It was suggested that

the introduction be reduced in length and Alex volunteered to work on that piece. It was suggested that the Glossary of Terms be eliminated and the definitions for Special Terms be included directly in the text with the question the term pertains to. The map on Part 2 will need some additional research to verify that the properties with conservation restrictions in town can be publicly accessed for certain recreational purposes. It was decided to combine questions 4 and 7. Questions 19 and 15 will be cut and question 8 will be moved to the end of the survey to help to shorten the length of the overall survey and avoid redundancy. It was suggested that there be some links included to further define and explain certain sections of the survey.

Another meeting with FRCOG staff to finalize and plan for distribution of the survey will be held in the beginning of August (date and time to be determined). It will be an online Zoom Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Laurie Pike
OSRP Committee Member

(The June 17, 2022 OSRP meeting minutes were approved at the July 22, 2022 OSRP meeting.)