

Rowe Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

Meeting with FRCOG

March 24, 2023 at 1 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: None

Call to order at 1:03 PM

A motion was made and seconded to approve OSRP Meeting Minutes by roll call vote for December 12/9/22, February 3, 2023, and November 11, 2022. Laurie Pike-yes, Dana Williams-yes, and Alex Reisman-yes.

A reminder was given to members of the committee to remember to keep track of volunteer hours for all work done on the OSRP plan.

Committee members will review and write comments for Section 3 of the draft OSRP plan and return to Tamsin Flanders, FRCOG.

The meeting was focused on Section 3 and generated a lot of discussion and questions and comments.

The following parts of section 3 were discussed in more depth resulting in the following questions and comments to follow-up on:

The population data for this section came from the ACS yearly survey. Is it accurate enough? Tamsin will check.

We still need to find a number for the percentage of people in town that are part-time residents. Rick Williams will look into this.

Rowe is in the same census block as Heath and Charlemont and therefore has an average income low enough to qualify as an equal justice community.

Rowe appears to have more potential to be developed.

What is the amount of open space not legally protected from development?

Things to consider for development include whether the soil is conducive to development, is it not zoned for development, does the aquifer field have a low yield?

How much land is vulnerable to climate change?

What are the future housing needs to meet the demands of the type of population moving in?

How are the development constraints affecting the lack of demand?

What by-law zoning changes may need to happen?

Minimum lot size for building is 4 acres with 60 feet of frontage and in other towns it is 2 acres.

What by-laws would be needed to prevent rural sprawl and protect green spaces and preserve the rural character?

There is no elderly or congregate housing.

There is not much land for sale or housing.

How to maintain that rural feel?

Should housing be concentrated to preserve green space?

What would be needed to protect and preserve scenic land and to prevent fragmentation of forest?

What updates may be needed to the by-laws to meet environmental standards for solar power, cell tower, or marijuana businesses?

These questions and comments will continue to be discussed as the committee formulates the goals for this OSRP plan.

The committee reviewed a number of maps to be included in the report.

It was suggested to desaturate the topography to focus on features.

More color range would be easier on the eyes.

Contrast Checker might be a good resource for helping to make the maps user friendly and easier for people who may be color blind.

Wetlands should maybe be a solid color.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Pike

OSRP Committee Member

These OSRP meeting minutes were approved at the July 14, 2023 meeting by the OSRP Committee.