

## Rowe Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

Meeting with FRCOG

June 9, 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). Tamsin Flanders from the Franklin County Regional Council of Government

Audience of citizens: Rick Williams, Chairman of Assessors. Rick will be helping with information for section 5.

Call to order at 1:00 PM

Deliverables for the MVP grant that is funding this project require that a final draft for sections 3, 4, and 5 be submitted by June 30, 2023, the end of the fiscal year 2023. Drafts of sections 6, 7, and 8 will need to be submitted, as well. There will also be 7 drafts of maps to review and submit. Tamsin will ask for an extension of July 10, 2023. We will need to plan a public forum for the final drafts to get feedback on Section 3, 4, 5. Then with the feedback a revision of the finals will need to be submitted to the Department of Conservation and Recreation Services.

There was discussion about the success of outdoor programs in Rowe. Passive programs tend to have the most participants, for examples, movies at the beach and nature themed presentations. It was suggested that inviting area Towns' residents to join in participating might boost the number of participants. Future outdoor programming goals should include programming for a range of ages and more accessible programming for a variety of participants, for example, accessible fishing and walking trails.

Sections 6, 7, and 8 will address regional collaboration, sharing resources, and sharing outdoor programs with area towns.

There is information still needed from various departments. Tamsin is trying to contact the BOH to get information about Rowe's wells and aquifers. The planning board will need to be asked if there are any industrial zoned districts and what are the subdivision regulations.

It was agreed that the draft of the action plan should be sent to all relevant boards for feedback. Those boards would include the Park Department, Conservation Commission, Historical Society, and Board of Selectpersons. This should take place before the public forum.

Discussion related to section 5 noted that taxes on land can be reduced if it qualifies for Chapter 61. It might be useful to have a workshop on what is needed for land to qualify for chapter 61. It was noted that not all of the conserved land in Rowe is permanently protected. Bear Swamp Utility Company had previously had more land in conservation but in 2020 took some of the

land out of conservation. It would be important to learn why the utility took some of their land out of conservation.

Section 4 will need to be reviewed, edited, and commented on by the committee and then to send those comments to Tamsin. Alex will try to spend time on making the information more visible and easy to skim with bullets, headings, condensing information, bolding important information etc..

An ADA assessment was done of the town's outdoor facilities by FRCOG. Several recommendations were noted. Those that could be addressed more quickly include wheel chair accessible picnic tables at the park and school, stable walking paths to the picnic and beach areas, ADA parking where appropriate, and improvements to the ramp for the bathrooms at Pelham Lake Park.

The committee would like to recruit more members particularly for long term implementation of the goals in the action plan once the plan has been approved. There will be more discussion of how to do this in the next meeting. It should be noted that this committee is appointed and therefore can include non-residents and part-time residents with an interest in preserving Rowe's open space.

The next meeting will focus on putting together a public forum for some time in the fall.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by,  
Laurie Pike  
OSRP Committee Member

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