

OEC Meeting Minutes/Staff Report

September 14, 2020

Present: Monica Carey, Dick Unruh, Rhonda Claridge, Tyler Schultz, John Humphries

Zoom per COVID

Agenda:

1. Updates from town staff (5 min)
2. Review the OEC Charter & Ordinance drafts for October GA (15 min)
3. Discussion of increased recreational pressures to environmental health - TMC correspondence, Water Protection District within Waterfall, regional overflow to Ophir Valley, etc. (30 min)
4. Review of open space program to date to begin discussions of any next steps (20 min)
5. Review draft ordinance for future GA repeal of Three Mile Plan, Ophir Valley Wildlife and Conservation District, Ophir Valley Zone District, and 94-10 Ophir Valley Park District (10 min)
6. ~~TBD - review of draft Master Plan "open space" language (30 min)~~ Tabled: draft not ready

Action Items:

1. John to begin drafting weed mgt standard practices for winter review. **PENDING**
2. Monica to copy all with Source Water Protection Plan **DONE**
3. Monica to get status of Waterfall signage from Mayor **DONE** - State providing re SWPP, Corinne forwarded templates of signs anticipated for receipt prior to winter. Copied OEC
4. Monica to copy all with existing 93/94 ordinances establishing OEC - **DONE**
5. Monica tracking status/current owner of draft MP- **DONE** in update cycle with Mayor > Town Mgr, will come back to OEC for review prior to GA review.
6. Monica to find contact for BABE-MIS report in the Swamp Project Decision Memo - **DONE** - received from Pamela Leschek, copied OEC (species disturbance report)
7. Rhonda completing response to TMC re addition of Island Lakes trail to their map - **PENDING**
8. OEC wanted to take up TMC offer to help with signage - **TABLED**, per Mayor request
9. OEC wanted to work session with TMC to discuss Waterfall/signage/overuse issues - **TABLED**, per Mayor request
10. OEC encouraged to independently review OEC ordinance draft language in prep for final draft in Oct OEC meeting
11. OEC meeting to be Oct 5 vs. 12 due to off-season travel schedules - **PENDING**
12. Monica requested that Mayor and Mgr in USFS discussion re commercial permitting in our water protection areas that we get a list of actives and how to find this out for ourselves. - **answer PENDING**

Topics goals for meetings September 14 and October 12, 2020

- **OEC** - Replace OEC mission in charter, ordinance? to accommodate retirement of Three Mile Plan concept and documents, inclusion of auspice for weed management program.
- **OEC September/October** - Continue prioritization and specification of landbank properties (inc New Dominion and Ferric Oxide?), discussion of preservation priorities

- **OEC September/October** Creation of [Spring Gulch] preserve and relevant docs
- **OEC October** - Review Master Plan and provide recommendation?
- **OEC November** - OEC recommendation for MP?
- **GA October** - 1st reading OEC ordinance, OEC recommendation for MP?
- **GA November** - 1st reading to repeal Three Mile Plan, Ophir Valley Wildlife and Conservation District and Ophir Valley Zone District , 94-10 Ophir Valley Park District (no hurry on this...can be later in winter...)
- **GA November** - Create [Spring Gulch] preserve[s]? 2nd reading OEC ord, 2nd reading repeal Three Mile Plan?

Meeting notes

1. The TMC response to Rhonda's letter asking them to remove Island Lake trail from their maps: they responded (via Steve Johnson our town attorney and also TMC attorney) that they would consult other maps. We might suggest they just hike it. Not a recreation friendly trail. TMC offers to help with signage. While OEC liked this, further discussion with Mayor suggests it be tabled to keep TMC at distance from Ophir business at this time.
2. Discussed TMC worksession to cover multiple concerns by all stakeholders. Further discussion with Mayor suggests it be tabled to keep TMC at distance from Ophir business at this time.
3. Thinking through possibility of closing public access to Waterfall through town property - needs more review per unintended consequences.
4. Further discussion of (1) creating preserve of Spring Gulch and (2) mechanisms to extend mgt auspices of Warner Springs water protection through Spring Gulch through Waterfall water protection area. Strong consensus.
5. Lots of discussion re how to protect greater Ophir Valley. How to discourage geotagging, social media monitoring, pooping, signage, distribution of water protection plan. Composting toilet was suggested. Tyler points out that Google Street View can yield some 50 logs of 360 degree views all the way to Island Lake, inclusive of Ophir residents lic plates...
6. Signage also necessary o North Star, up by waterplant, etc. Need for winter-focused signage as well as summer-focused
7. Erosion happening around fallen trees throughout.
8. John voiced strong concerns for how the weed program should proceed and be managed. He has action item to draft a weed mgt plan for winter review and OEC/GA adoption. Inclusive of LUC changes that need to be addressed via ordinance.
9. John - wands for the winter
10. John not in favor of water plan area to become industrial spot. Note earlier OEC meeting discussion indicated favor of fenced municipal area for equipment and material in that location to remove such items from ROW.
11. John requests week in advance notification of ROW work.

Tentative Agenda for 10/5/2020

- In depth look at all survey questions in 2003, 2016, 2019 surveys related to open space
- Finalize OEC ordinance, at least in context of appointing seats
- MP draft review if available
- Signage plan - where and text
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Relevant Notes / thoughts from Staff 10/6/2020

- To present from OEC: John - wands for the winter, John requests week in advance notification of ROW work, dark skies/LUC requirements re shields & enforcement, ord re builders reseeding their own lots and protection of neighboring lots from disturbance with bonds

Immediate Goals with Probable Timeline:

- ~~1. Conduct survey (Nov) DONE~~
- ~~2. Finalize a resolution template, to be used for open space projects, inclusive of development/maintenance/restoration/financing plans (Dec)~~
- ~~3. Bike trail hearing (Feb 10)~~
- ~~4. Review bike trail proposal against recognized surveys, ordinances, LUC, Master Plan (Mar 9)~~
- ~~5. Prepare bike trail recommendation for presentation to February GA (Mar 9).~~
- ~~6. Contribute to P&Z effort of drafting master plan re open space language (Jan-April)~~
- ~~7. Review planting of approx 40 free trees planned for open space (Jan-April)~~
- ~~8. Review town reseeding/management plan for plow-damaged areas (Jan-April)~~
- ~~9. Review funding of USFS Ophir Pass area gates/repair from open space funds (May)~~
- ~~10. Review broadband infrastructure installation for alignment to Open Space LUC (TBD)~~
- ~~11. Review water plant installation for alignment to Open Space LUC (TBD)~~
12. Inventory and recommend categorization/prioritization of town-owned lots and landbank lots (open space)
13. Review existing parks and potential parks for alignment to Park District ordinance 94-10 and to recognized surveys, ordinances, LUC, Master Plan (TBD)
14. Discuss recommendation for town-owned lots in Spring Gulch to become a park.
- ~~15. Horses in Ophir Valley (TBD)~~
- ~~16. Discuss cleanup of Eagle cabin and at Henri's due to town complaints rec'd by Ken.~~
17. Revisit OEC charter, origination ordinance in light of Three Mile Plan relevance.
18. Reconcile OEC ordinances, charter, mission statement
19. Review open space goals
20. Weed program to include homeowner responsibility to reseed disturbed.
21. Weed program to include builder responsibility to not disturb adjacent open space
22. OEC protection of mining structures
23. Track status of gate repair/install by USFS along Ophir Pass - significant damage at Carbonaro gate.
24. Track status of state-provided signage for Waterfall water protection
25. Discuss overall signage strategy re protection- education, restrictions, etc.
26. Track status of finding active commercial permittees from USFS in Waterfall