

OEC Meeting Minutes/Staff Report
September 14, 2020

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

Zoom per COVID

Agenda:

- a) Updates as relevant from town staff (tabled as meeting pre-dated staff meeting)
- b) Finalize the OEC Charter & ordinance drafts for October GA (tabled OEC Charter)
- c) Review letter to TMC re Swamp
- d) Conversation with San Miguel Conservation Foundation preserves, etc. (tabled)

Action Items:

1. John to begin drafting weed mgt standard practices for winter review. **PENDING**
2. Monica tracking status/current owner of draft MP- **PENDING** in update cycle with Mayor > Town Mgr, will come back to OEC for review prior to GA review.
3. Rhonda completing response to TMC re addition of Island Lakes trail to their map - **PENDING**
4. 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**
5. Rhonda still seeking USFS map showing Swamp from Ken -**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. Continued

discussion of letter contents - firmly stated vs. too aggressive re threat to close Ophir-owned access to Waterfall.

Tentative Agenda for 11/9/2020

- In depth look at all survey questions in 2003, 2016, 2019 surveys related to open space
- MP draft review if available
- Update OEC charter to remove ordinance conflicts
- Review repeal language for Three Mile Plan and associated docs
- Invite Chris Hazen of SanMiguel Conservation Foundation for preserve discussion
- Signage plan - where and text, including messaging on Ophir website
- Continued discussion of Waterfall access winter/summer

Relevant Notes / thoughts from Staff 10/6/2020

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
27. 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)