SOUTH PORTLAND OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2020

Present: Sharon Newman, Patti Smith, Dan Hogan, Karl Coughlin, Barbara Dee, Kathi Perkins, Richard Rottkov, Susan Chase, Justin Barker

The minutes from the February 20, 2020 OSIC meeting were approved. The committee questioned when the OSIC expires. Justin clarified the expiration date is January 2022.

The committee reviewed the comments from the March 5 City Council workshop. Of special concern were the issues around conservation easements and the tiering system. It was decided that schools and municipal buildings did not have to be included in the tiering process. Utility structures were also discussed and will be removed from the tier list. Susan offered to edit the tier spreadsheet to reflect the deletions. The revised spreadsheet will contain a list of properties that might become improved and might qualify for tiering at a later date.

In order to get the two new committees up and running we need to ask the City Council to order their establishment. Barbara will draft letters for circulation and review.

The public forum requested by the City Council was discussed. Given the Covid19 issues holding such a public meeting is a long way off in the future. Other methods of allowing the public to weigh in on the tier process and recommendations is to post it on the City’s website, get an article into the local papers, distribute it via the City’s newsletter, and possibly email it to community members. Jessica Kimball probably still has the email list generated during the Open Space Plan development. It was suggested that the South Portland Housing Authority could distribute the information to residents. We could consider a virtual forum via Zoom.

The Open Space and Parks zoning ordinances are moving forward under the direction of the Planning Department.
Since several City Councilors continue to express concerns about conservation easements and about what happens if an easement holder such as the SPLT disappears. Sharon will develop a memo to the Councilors clarifying both issues.

Do we need to have another workshop with the City Council to go over changes to the tier spreadsheet and to clarify other questions? It was decided that the memo and revised spreadsheet can be sent to the Council in lieu of another workshop.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday May 5 from 4-5. Justin will set up a Zoom meeting link.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Dee, Secretary