

Conservation Commission
October 15, 2018, Agenda

Approve 9/17/18 Minutes

New Business: Conservation Conversation w/Mindee, Parks and Rec Intern

- Mindee's report on Invasives was presented, and the group discussed her work.
- We questioned who will ultimately tackle invasives in the city. Whose purview does it fall under?
- Karl looking for budget in the next 2-3 years to include invasive species combat in his budget
- iMapinvasives.com is a resource that Mindee used
- Megan to email Kate Lewis – about SPCC, inclusion in a part of the city, or a designated staff person

Old Business:

- Discuss FWCF next steps
 - Review draft of what we would send to Scott about FWCF inventory update – Megan to send around a draft before next meeting
- Updates on wetlands identification
 - Puleo says we should be concerned with using those standards. Individual project data has never been used to update the city-wide national wetland. Data is too broad and may not be accurate enough. City also relies on inventory data set to identify wetland areas in SP. Because NWN data is coarse, city also requires wetland delineation that may encroach on existing data. Using course data
 - Schedule a meeting at the planning department and Tex. We're having a hard time understand on how wetlands mapping is done, and how the city uses those maps
 - Questions to ask:
 - When a development proposal is made, how do you determine what wetlands are affected?
 - What are the shortcomings of the database, and how do you address?
 - When do you deploy boots on the ground? What if boots on the ground determine different results than the map? What do you use as tools during "boots on the ground?"
 - Who does the survey? Is it the same person every time?
 - Do you estimate the square footage of wetlands, or do you use a survey?
 - If we use a vendor, who may have a database, why don't we just use that? Could we use that to update the course data?

- Why did SP go to the FWCF model, if we're the only city that uses it?
 - How do you think it's working? Can it be revisited? Rate increase?
 - Are there any places that you think should be addressed, that are in real need of protection?
- Dan – update on FWCF grants that are in progress
 - Dan sent Julie Pitt (Mahoney) another email, asking to meet about grants
 - Asking what money has been used and what she intends to use
 - Dan will follow up with Principal if he hasn't heard
 - Tania w/high school is asking for another grant
 - Next project is for an additional rain garden in the courtyard, same one that she's already done, and a rehab of the original one that is not functioning
 - Dan will ask her to follow the same format
 - Use this to kick-off a story w/Sentry
- Barb/Dan – update on open space (and intersection of FWCF inventory!)
 - Three levels of property protection:
 - Gold (easement)
 - Mid-level (Hamlin, O'Neil, Mahoney eventually, etc.) – needs a lot of review, need a committee
 - Items that can be handled between staff and council w/o public input. E.g abandoned utility, spite strips, paper streets
 - Next meeting, full committee meeting. Deciding on the three-levels of protection and whether that needs to be in the open space plans
 - LWCF – getting a list from Kevin on properties in the city that have been funded via this fund
 - Acquisition vs. Protection. List of existing opps to buy lands and sources with whom to partner
 - Private Property owner discussion – financial incentive, competitive w/sale of land
 - Should we develop a list of private property
 - Land Bank – figuring out nuts and bolts and how it could be used.
 - Conservation Commission is required to keep a list of all open areas within the city whether publicly or privately owned.
 - Tex mentioned that implementation is going to require support staff. Suggested adding someone to the Conservation Commission.
 - In prep for the next meeting, consultants will develop a guidance doc to lead the meeting, and draft an initial report outline
- Budget:
 - \$542.36 left from grant
 - General request to the council for budgetary help – ask the council for committee purposes

- Every year, Scott requests coming years budget – can submit anything to him to be included in council's budget in JANUARY
- \$210,366.70 FWCF
 - \$14,136 in 2017
 - Expenditures for \$37,460
- Email Scott next for funds – Megan to email, forward
- Conservation Corner -- FWCF

New Business:

- FWCF grant request from Tania Ferrante
- List of public and private property? SPCC should try to update and prioritize the list. SPCC should create/update what comes out of the Open Space Committee
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