

**Old Colony Planning Council
Minutes of the Meeting
October 31, 2018**

The five hundred and fifty first meeting of the Old Colony Planning Council was held on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at the Council offices located at 70 School Street, Brockton, MA

OCPC Delegates/Alternates Present

Frank Staffier	Avon
Sandra Wright	Bridgewater
Robert Moran Jr.	Brockton
Jeanmarie Joyce	Easton
Christine Joy	Plympton
Robert Kuver	Stoughton
Fred Gilmetti	Whitman
Daniel Salvucci	Whitman Alternate

Communities Not Represented

Abington
Duxbury
East Bridgewater
Halifax
Hanover
Hanson
Kingston
Pembroke
Plymouth
West Bridgewater
Delegate-at-Large

Others Present

Matthew Dyer	Hanson Board of Selectmen
Larry Field	Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance
Dottie Fulginiti	Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance
Pasquale Ciaramella	OCPC
Bruce Hughes	OCPC
Laurie Muncy	OCPC
Lisa Sullivan	OCPC

1. CALL TO ORDER: Council President Mr. Frank Staffier called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. President Staffier welcomed Hanson Selectman Mr. Matthew Dyer to the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Council Treasurer Christine Joy read the roll call. There was not a quorum present. Mr. Robert Moran Jr. moved the Council meet as Executive Committee, seconded by Ms. Sandra Wright. So voted.

3. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2018 MEETING: Council President Staffier asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes as prepared. Ms. Sandra Wright moved to accept the minutes as prepared, seconded by Mr. Robert Moran, Jr. So voted.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018: Council Executive Director Mr. Pasquale Ciaramella presented the September, 2018 Financial Report. After discussion, Mr. Robert Moran Jr. moved to accept the September 2018 financial report as prepared, seconded by Ms. Jeanmarie Joyce. So voted.

A list of Upcoming Meetings/Events for October and November 2018 was included in the meeting packet.

5. REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS:

Industrial Revenue Bond (Information only)

None

Environmental Notifications (Information only)

Council Economic Development/Community Planner Bruce Hughes presented on the following environmental notification

i. EEA # 15916 - Foothills Preserve and West Beaver Dam Brook Ecological Restoration (Plymouth) ENF - The Foothills Preserve and West Beaver Dam Brook Restoration builds on lessons learned from the three other projects in the region that have restored retired cranberry bogs to diverse wetlands and streams (Eel River and Tidmarsh Farms in Plymouth, and Coonamessett River in Falmouth). Many of the same design and construction elements completed on these other similar projects are proposed for this project including removal of valley-spanning berms, removal of two obsolete small dams, reconstruction of a new sinuous stream channel, installation of large wood for channel construction and aquatic and terrestrial habitat, development of microtopography throughout the wetland surfaces, and planting of native trees and shrubs. The project is being led by the Town of Plymouth and the MA Division of Ecological Restoration (DER).

Small Dam Removals

The work will include the removal of the two small earthen berms that comprise the upper and lower dams, including the steel culvert within the lower dam. The removal of these structures will open restored stream connectivity and open up approximately one linear mile of river habitat for migratory species. The earthen berms will be entirely removed to restore the full width of the floodplain.

River Channel Restoration

To address the degraded and simplified existing agricultural ditching now present within the Foothills Preserve, a new restored stream channel will be reconstructed. The proposed channel meander pattern within the Foothills Preserve is based on low gradient peatland channels observed elsewhere in the region, including Beaver Dam Brook through Tidmarsh Farms. The design and construction methods follow standard practice for river restoration and reflect methods used at other retired cranberry farm sites in Massachusetts. The design of the stream for much of Tidmarsh West includes a slightly irregular meander pattern that begins downstream of cells A, B, and C, which do not have adequate base flow to support a defined channel. The existing main ditch in Cell C will be plugged with wood and earth to deconstruct the channel and force the water closer to the wetland surface. The slightly irregular meandering stream will begin just south of Cell C and meander through Cells D, E, and F. The new channels will have physical complexity (e.g. side arms, backwater areas), sinuosity, and large wood, and will be reconnected to the adjacent restored floodplain. Beyond immediately improving habitat

conditions on site, this work will increase hydrologic retention and help restore wetland conditions across the site.

Wetland Restoration

The bog/ wetland restoration work in the Foothills Preserve will include removal of the sand layer in select areas to create open water features of various sizes, roughening of the former farm surface (microtopography), addition of large wood for habitat features, and wetland vegetation planting. In addition, the interior and perimeter ditches will be filled to remove the features of the farm that actively worked to drain the wetlands for farming. Throughout the restored wetland surface, microtopographic features will be constructed to provide terrestrial and aquatic habitat. This microtopography will include mounds and low areas, both approximately one foot plus/ minus the elevation of the bog surface.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION – ZONING REFORM OVERVIEW: Mr. Larry Field, Deputy Director and Ms. Dottie Fulginiti, Director of Local Leadership Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance (MSGA) gave an update/ overview on Zoning Reform. The following points were covered: MSGA advocates for: Housing choices for families and seniors, Healthy active communities with open space and protected natural resources, Helping communities plan for the future and predictable permitting for businesses and property owners. The State Senate passed a comprehensive zoning reform bill in June 2016. MSGA supported Senate re-file and distinct House version. Governor Baker filed the Housing Choice bill. By the end of the session, the MSGA was pushing for Housing Choice “Plus”. Housing Choice Legislation: Would reduce the required vote from 2/3 “supermajority” to a simple majority for certain zoning changes including: Mixed-use and multi-family, Cluster zoning, Reduced parking and dimensional requirements, Transfer of development rights, Natural resource protection zoning, Increasing density, Accessory dwelling units or “in-law” apartments. Housing Committee: simple majority for certain permit applications. Later in session, MSGA advocated for Housing Choice Plus, which includes: Board training program (not mandatory), Mediation at local level, Site plan review, Appeals reform (certiorari review and discretionary bond), Statewide standards for open space residential design (cluster), Statewide standards for accessory apartments. Things MSGA is thinking about for next term include: Housing Choices/Plus, Zoning/Planning Tools, Housing Production and Anti-Displacement. For more information please contact Mr. Field at Larry@ma-smartgrowth.org or Ms. Fulginiti at dottie@ma-smartgrowth.org or www.Great-Neighborhoods.org

B. SELECTION OF ONE COMMUNITY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 14,000 TO SERVE AS A SIGNATORY MEMBER ON THE OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION: OCPC Executive Director Mr. Pat Ciaramella said OCPC every two years needs to vote to elect a signatory from

Communities with population under 14,000 to serve on the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This year, three selectmen from three communities were self-nominated and are interested in serving on the Old Colony MPO. The term will be for two years commencing November 1, 2018 and concluding October 31, 2020. OCPC Council Delegates/Alternates present at the meeting voted. Eldon F. Moreira, West Bridgewater Board of Selectmen was elected to serve for next two years on the Old Colony MPO.

8. COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

There were none.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

There were none.

10. VISITORS COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

There were none.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Gilmetti
Secretary

List of Documents for the October 2018 OCPC Council Meeting

- Agenda for the October 31, 2018 OCPC Council Meeting
- September 26, 2018 OCPC Council Meeting Minutes
- OCPC Financial Statements September 2018
- October and November Upcoming Events
- Zoning Reform Power point presentation