

CITY OF GARDNER
Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering Committee

Gardner City Hall – Manca Annex
115 Pleasant St., Room 202

978-630-4014

Gardner, MA 01440

fax 978-632-1905

MEETING

Thursday April 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

**CITY HALL ANNEX
SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 203**

ANNOUNCEMENT - Any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the Chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the Chair forthwith. All Documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting.

Members Present:

Katie Guertin, Gordon Leedy, Steve Cormier, John Awdycki, Anna Wilkins, Rob Oliva, Ron Cormier

Members Absent:

Norman Beaugard and Trevor Beaugard

Guests & Visitors:

Steve Rockwood

MEETING – brought to Order by Gordon Leedy at 6:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Sign-in sheet was passed around while Gordon Leedy introduced himself as the Principal Landscape Architect from Tighe & Bond, the consulting firm the city chose to contract with for the plan update.

Assign Officers

The Committee agreed that Katie Guertin would serve as Chair, and Trevor Beaugard will serve as Vice Chair.

Discussion

G. Leedy described the general make-up of the Open Space Plan and gave an overview of some of the sections involved. The timeline of work and when the update should be completed by was briefly discussed. He stated that not all sections need updating, and that the State has specific requirements for updating the plan. Members of the Committee were encouraged to review Gardner's plan (on city website) on their own time to become familiar with the different sections. G. Leedy also mentioned the possibility of forming small sub-committees to tackle each section, as this has been done in other municipalities. S. Cormier stated that due to the committee being rather small, there just aren't enough people to form committees for each section. K. Guertin suggested that each committee member be assigned a section that pertains to them based on their role within the city. For example, "I am the Conservation Agent, so I would likely be updating items that involve open space parcels and conservation land," stated Guertin. R. Oliva mentioned that Jon Fiore (GIS Coordinator) will be able to update the necessary maps, but a lot of the data from seven years ago is missing and/or broken links. He said that IT should be able to recover the files and paths that were used to produce the previous plan. G. Leedy then mentioned that public outreach is a part of the plan update, specifically within the Environmental Justice Neighborhood (EJN). A survey was available to the public in 2015 when the plan was last updated and had decent questions and responses. G. Leedy talked about a program called Every Door Direct, that will mail a postcard/survey to every mailbox in the city (for a fee). The committee thought that might be good to reach the EJN, and Leedy will look into it prior to the next meeting. The previous survey will also be sent to the committee members for review before the next meeting. The goal would be to post the survey mid-May, and hold a public meeting in mid-June, as required for the update. A. Wilkins from the North County Land Trust discussed different ways to make the survey public, such as Survey Monkey and Google Survey. She also asked if Gardner has an agricultural committee. Gardner does not. A. Wilkins will reach out to Growing Places, a non-profit organization which has programs to provide sustainable food to communities. She will find out if they have been or have plans to be involved with Gardner. G. Leedy finished by stating that the committee should have a look at the Goals and Objectives section at the next meeting, along with the survey.

Upcoming Meetings

The committee decided the next meeting, and meetings going forward, will be virtual. The next meeting will be May 12th at 6:00pm via Zoom.

7:00 pm Meeting adjourned

NOTICE: These Agenda items consist of items that are reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting and are specifically allowed to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.
