

TOWN AREA PLAN WORK GROUP
Meeting Of April 21, 2023, at 4:00 pm by Zoom
FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attending: Mary Anne Easley, Marsha Fader, Alison King, Mary Longacre, Mickey Rowland, Lee Saperstein, and Henry Terry.

Absent: Regen Horchow.

Attendance was verified by a roll call; there was a quorum at all times. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed at the following address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yB-BKOgJSRw&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhF3WZ8xvh3sdHgJEvCabR6&index=22>.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. Mary Longacre reviewed the rules on remote-attendance meetings and said also that this meeting would be recorded. Henry Terry called the roll, live, and confirmed the reported attendance.

2. Agenda Approval.

Henry Terry asked for approval of the agenda; Mary Anne Easley so moved, Mary Longacre seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

3. Minutes Approval.

Marsha Fader moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 4, 2023, which was seconded by Mickey Rowland, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Public and Member Comments.

There were no members of the public present, hence no comments. Mary Longacre announced that she had circulated an URL link to the original survey so that Work Group members could compare recently circulated responses with the original questions. She said, also, that agendas and videos have been posted to the Town's web site. The Work Group has been identified two different ways: for agendas and minutes, one goes to the Town's main page and opens "Agendas and Minutes" and scrolls down alphabetically to "NPEDC Work Group." For videos, one opens "Watch Meetings Live" on the main page, clicks on "Playlists" and then scrolls down to "Town Area Plan Workgroup."

5. New Business.

Henry Terry indicated that this meeting would be focused on open space and recreation and referred to a plan of open space prepared by Nathan Porter, GIS Coordinator (attached). The numbers refer to the names of the properties shown, which he read. Where a number is repeated,

it is because the property has an address on two (intersecting) streets. Mary Anne Easley noted that Dead Horse Valley, which is adjacent to Mill Hill Park (10), was not shown. Dead Horse Valley is accessed by North Mill Street and by Cato Lane, which is a walking trail and not a road. Mary Longacre asked about number 6 and Henry Terry answered that it is on the map and is the Goose Pond. Marsha Fader initiated a lively conversation about access to the Lily Pond Park (8) because she recalled two laneways from Lily Street and one going north to Wesco Place, thence to the Oldest House Park (11) and eventually to Coffin Park (1). Essentially, there is a greenway from Lily Street to the Cliff Road. The conversation moved into the question of ownership and whether the public may cross private land to access these parks. Lee Saperstein noted that Land Bank properties are deemed to be privately owned but, as stated by the Land Bank, are intended for public use. Hence, they are open to the public for walking. While owned now by the Town, there was a motion in the 2022 Annual Town Meeting to give Mill Hill Park to the Land Bank.

It was mentioned that the Monument, in the middle of Main Street, is essentially a pocket park. This comment opened the conversation to identification of other publicly accessible but privately owned parks such as the backyard of the Hadwen House, the grounds of the Atheneum, and the spaces around the African Meeting and Higginbotham Houses. Mary Anne Easley asked if these properties were truly open to the public to which Mary Longacre replied that there may be rules of access that limit times and days in which they are open. Henry Terry, referring to the Work Group's draft plan, asked how inclusive should we be with these open-space properties. Lee Saperstein suggested that we should include all possible spaces and let the NPEDC decide which ones to include in the Master Plan.

Mickey Rowland then suggested that we review open spaces adjacent to the Town Area, which, essentially includes the parks and open spaces against the harbor along Easy and Washington Streets. Lee Saperstein added that the Harbor Walk has long been an objective of the Committee on Roads and Right of Way. Whether or not the waterfront is in our work group's charge, we should comment on spaces that are used heavily by Town Area residents. In answer to Marsha Fader's question on who will author the overall Master Plan, Mary Longacre replied that they remain to be chosen. With respect to the Commercial Downtown and the water front, she believed that it was appropriate for our group to make comments but certainly not to prescribe. She also noted, in response to Mickey Rowland's question of why these areas were excluded from our area, that they were substantially different in terms of properties and owners affected. Our area is mainly residential and our work group reflects this; a work group for the downtown would need many more proprietors and for the waterfront fishermen and representatives of the ferry. When our group was constituted, NPEDC felt that it would be unwieldably large with all elements included, hence the separation. Marsha Fader said that, if the downtown and waterfront work groups have not been chosen, may we suggest ourselves as members? Henry Terry felt that this was a question that should be discussed once our draft report is finished. Mary Longacre added that the Nantucket Town Association was probably the correct group to nominate members for these work groups.

With the specification of open spaces well discussed, Lee Saperstein said the we should now consider which parks should have playgrounds, certainly the bigger ones: Coffin, Lily, and Mill Hill. The ensuing discussion was expanded to include all amenities: playgrounds, park benches,

picnic tables, landscaping, etc. One such amenity, in particular, was space for parking because not all open spaces have off-street parking. Landscaping certainly includes trees: the protection of existing ones and suggestions for additions. Portions of these open spaces are left natural but that means there are areas that harbor ticks, which raises the question of maintenance.

As discussion ended, Henry Terry suggested that, in light of the time, adjournment was in order.

6. Old Business.

There was none.

7. Adjourn.

With no other business, Lee Saperstein moved and Mary Longacre seconded a move to adjourn. It passed unanimously.

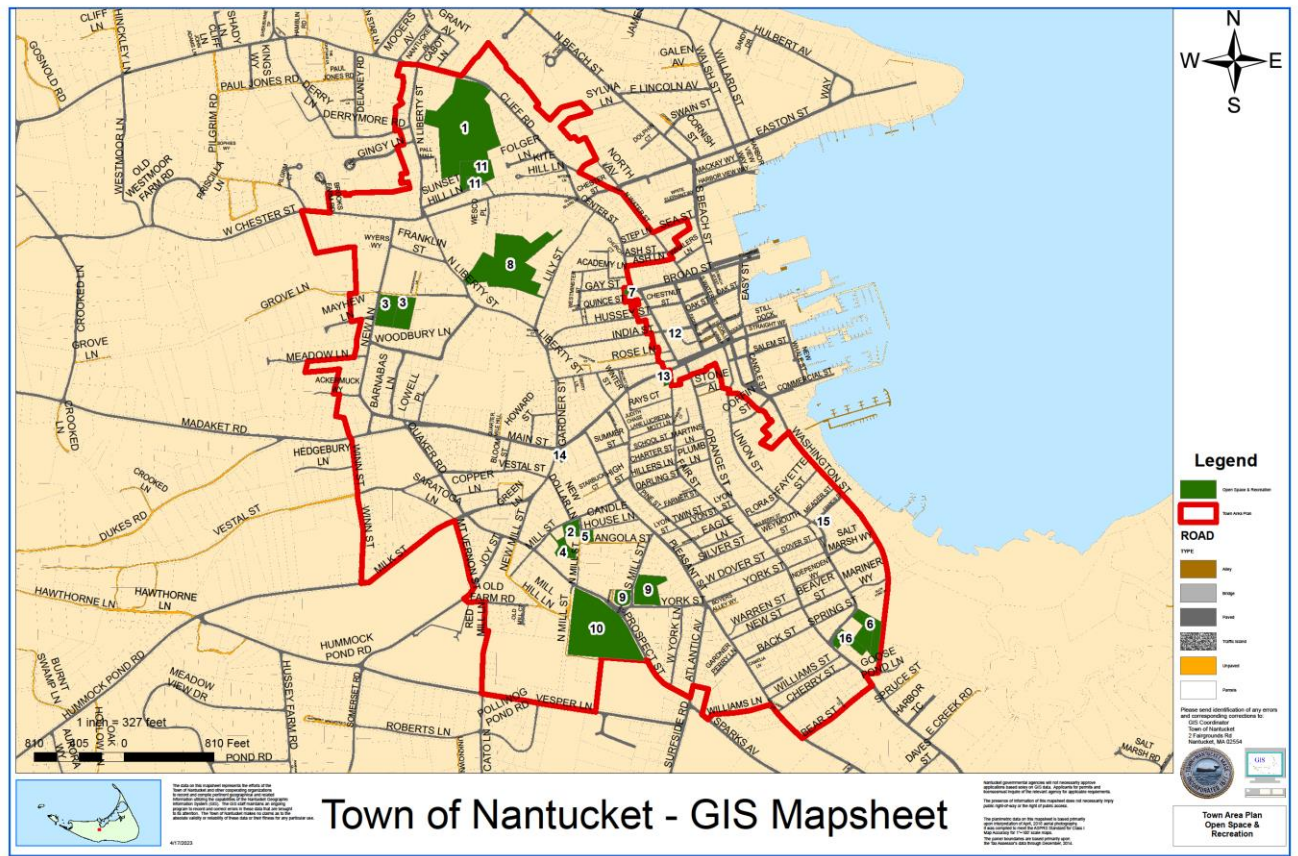
Adjournment: 5:02 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 4:00 pm. This meeting will be by Zoom.

For reference: Subcommittee composition.

2. Land Use: Liz Almodobar and Mary Anne Easley	02/19/2022
3. Housing: Marsha Fader and Mickey Rowland	12/07/2021
4. Economic Development: Alison King and Mary Longacre	05/20/2021
5. Natural and Cultural Resources: Liz Almodobar and Marsha Fader	12/07/2021
6. Open Space and Recreation Plan: Mary Anne Easley and Henry Terry	03/17/2023
7. Services and Facilities: Regen Horchow and Mickey Rowland	12/07/2021
8. Circulation; Mary Longacre and Lee Saperstein	07/05/2021

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary, saperste@mst.edu



TAP Open Space and Rec.; Legend

1. Coffin Park, 48 Cliff Rd., TON
2. Elinor Ham Pony Field, 10 Mill St., NHA
3. Fields, 10 Grove Ln., 25 New Ln., NILB
4. Fields, 1 North Mill St., NILB
5. Fields, 14 Candle House Ln., NILB
6. Goose Pond (Consue Springs), 84 Union St., NILB
7. Jared Coffin House Park, 50 Center St., NIR
8. Lily Pond, 8 Wesco place, NILB
9. Mill, 50 Prospect St., 39 York Ln., NHA
10. Mill Hill Park, 47 Prospect St., TON
11. Oldest House, 16 & 22 Sunset Hill Ln., NHA
12. Pocket Park, 4 India St., NIR
13. Pocket Park, 0 Fair St, NILB
14. Pocket Park, 106 Main St., NILB
15. Pocket Park, 50 Union St., NILB
16. Pocket Park, 90 Union St., NILB