

**Columbia Open Space Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 16, 2023**

Members Present: Ann Dunnack, Chair, Chris Tolsdorf, Paul Ramsey(zoom), Rob Helstrom, Ron Wikholm, Paul Zator (Zoom). Members Absent: Justin Riendeau. Other attendees: Tom McGrath

Audience for Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: Chris Tolsdorf moved, and Ron Wikholm seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of 10-19-2023. The vote was four ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

Update of IMBA/State Plan: Cally Guasti reports that the contract between TPL and the State is still being negotiated to work out details regarding the relative responsibilities of the State, TPL, and IMBA. A final draft has been developed but is not yet approved. Ann Dunnack questioned how and when community involvement will be handled. Cally supported the development of a list of stakeholders; specifics of exactly how and when their input will occur will become clearer as the process continues. Rob Helstrom asked whether the mountain bike trails will be separate from the foot trails. Cally indicated that the trails will be isolated from each other. Equestrian use will also be discussed.

Old Business:

PZC/Open Space Set-asides: No report.

Route 66 Property: Tabled.

Anita Fay Ramm Conservation Land: Nothing new to report.

Pine Street Parking: The lawyers are still working on a solution the property boundary dispute.

River Trail Alliance: No report.

12-Town Airline Trail Alliance: No report.

Hop River Preserve: The bridge adjacent to the property is not likely to be built until 2025.

Salmon River Watershed Partnership: No report.

FOMPSP activities: The group met recently to identify a list of stakeholders for the IMBA/State Trail Project.

Meeting Calendar: Ann Dunnack moved and Paul Zator seconded a motion to approve the presented meeting schedule for 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

Mark Walter shared a draft PZC regulation amendment regarding affordable and senior housing using the Planned Neighborhood Housing Complex model. The draft includes an open space set aside of 15%, but this requirement may not be appropriate for small acreage, high density project.

Paul Ramsey forwarded a list of possible land owners who may be interested in their options regarding disposition of their property in their estates. Ann Dunnack suggested that the OS Committee develop a plan to educate owners regarding their options should they desire to protect their property in perpetuity. These options would include development or conservation, sale of development rights to a municipality or land trust, or sale or donation to a land trust.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM

Submitted by Chris Tolsdorf