 CITY OF DOVER	MASTER PLAN CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE CHAPTER STEERING COMMITTEE - MINUTES Meeting Type: Regular Meeting Meeting Location: 1st Floor Conference Room, City Hall 288 Central Ave Dover NH Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2024 Meeting Time: 6:00 pm
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Members Present: Deputy Mayor Dennis Shanahan (Chair), Mark Speidel, Russ Warnock, Tom Fargo, Councilor Lindsey Williams

Members Absent (Excused): Kristen Murphy

Others Present: Steve Whitman (Resilience Planning), Zak Brohinsky (Resilience Planning)

Staff Present: Resilience Manager Jackson Kaspari, Outreach Coordinator Erin Bassegio

D. Shanahan opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. Welcome

2. Approval of January 30, 2024 Minutes

Motion to approve made by M. Speidel. Seconded by R. Warnock. Vote U/A.

3. Update on outreach efforts

a. What's been done?

S. Whitman reviewed outreach efforts that have been started including the creation of a project website and a Polco feedback form. Also discussed was the related survey being conducted by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) as part of the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) project.

J. Kaspari shared that Committee Members can expect to see a first draft of the NRI in April and a final report in May.

S. Whitman discussed a team visit to significant sites in Dover on March 15th that highlighted existing and potential conservation and open space projects.

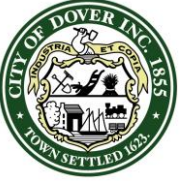
b. What's next?

Members reviewed the "First Five Minutes for Dover" outreach strategy which involves a project overview being shared at the beginning of each public meeting and any other related community event or meeting.

4. Update on document review

a. Broad findings & key takeaways

S. Whitman shared that the document review for the project has been completed and gave a brief overview of the local and regional documents that were included.

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S. Whitman shared some takeaways of the review that included: clear timeline of conservation and open space goals and achievements, range of ownership and access, community conservation partners, and the large number of existing conservation and open space sites and trails.

Other findings included significance of agricultural resources, environmental factors that have shaped development patterns, an increase needed in public awareness of existing sites, and opportunities for conservation and/or recreation connections.

Committee Members reviewed whether there should be a set goal for the amount of land that the City should protect; this was identified in the document review as something that had not been done in the past. In this consideration, members discussed comparing Dover’s conservation efforts to similar communications and how the City could include maintenance and outreach into its conservation goals and spending.

5. Update on co-occurrence & presentation

a. Overview of the process

i. Review inputs

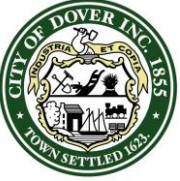
Z. Brohinsky discussed the natural resource inputs that have been mapped in Dover by SRPC as part of the Natural Resource Inventory project and identified the high priority areas where many of these inputs overlap or co-occurrences. The natural resource inputs were organized into five categories: Food Production, Subsurface Waters, Hazards, Surface Waters, and Habitats.

ii. Weighting demonstration

Z. Brohinsky explained how weighting of the different natural resource categories can have a dramatic effect on the presentation of a co-occurrence map and reviewed sample maps.

iii. Constraints

Z. Brohinsky reviewed constraints to conservation: water bodies, existing conserved lands, and development.

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iv. Co-occurrence scenarios with constraints

Z. Brohinsky showed, using co-occurrence scenarios with constraints, that over 6000 acres in Dover are “available land” for conservation and the conservation priority levels for the available parcels of land. Committee members discussed other potential factors in weighting conservation priority such as connectivity with existing conservation land, resiliency, coastal access, and population density.

b. Committee weighting vote

Committee members participated in two weighting exercises where they assigned weights to the five natural resource categories, (Food Production, Subsurface Waters, Hazards, Surface Waters, and Habitats), and then reviewed and compared their responses and priorities.

Committee members also weighted the categories as a group, creating three, distinct co-occurrence scenarios.

6. Next steps

S. Whitman provided an overview of the project’s next steps that will include co-occurrence mapping based on the Committee’s weighting exercises, outreach updates from the NRI survey and project feedback form, and a draft StoryMap of the city’s conservation efforts.

a. Findings from co-occurrence

b. Outreach

c. StoryMap

7. Adjourn

Potential next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for May 30 at 6 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.