

Town of Superior
Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)
Meeting Notes
January 8, 2014

Members of the Committee in attendance: Sherin Tedeschi, Ken Lish, Margaret Parish, Patricia Dunham (late arrival), Matt Finnigan. Quorum present.

Others in attendance:

Citizen: Jim Paine, Michael Gheleta.

Town Board Liaison: Sandy Pennington.

Staff: Martin Toth.

Agenda Items:

1. Updates and Lookahead
 - a. Outdoor Education Consultant – with the Town Board’s approval of a budget this year to hire consulting staff resources to coordinate open space-related program/outreach items, staff is working to identify a firm to serve in this role and develop a calendar for the year.
 - b. Coyote Crew Training Opportunity on February 22 – staff is coordinating a volunteer event on February 22 to learn about coyote hazing techniques and then walk park facilities to practice these techniques. Details will be publicized over the next couple of weeks.
 - c. Leadership Election (February meeting) – calendar note that each Town Committee is required by ordinance to choose leadership annually by the second meeting of each calendar year.
2. Recommendation – 2014 Work Plan. The Committee reviewed and amended the draft 2014 Work Plan discussed last month, then passed a motion unanimously:
 - a. The Committee recommends the 2014 Work Plan (attached).
3. Recommendation – Parcel for Attachment to Open Space Summary Report. The Committee discussed information regarding the Shan Shan Chu parcel that Sherin assembled on behalf of the Committee. The Committee revised the parcel description narrative and passed a motion unanimously:
 - a. The Committee recommends the Shan Shan Chu parcel summary (attached) be incorporated with the Town’s Open Space Summary document and recommends the Shan Shan Chu property for total parcel acquisition.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

**Town of Superior
OSAC
2014 Work Plan**

Ongoing:

1. Continue to work with the Town Board and staff to acquire the Shan Shan Chu parcel and Level 3 property.
2. Look for opportunities to begin discussions regarding potential Trail Links to Highway 128.
3. Schedule annual joint meeting with Town Board, preferably first quarter.

First Quarter:

1. Finalize recommendation to Town Board regarding Shan Shan Chu parcel for attachment to the Open Space Summary Report.
2. Review Open Space Fund financial outlook.
3. Continue to pursue regional collaboration by identifying potential 2014 meetings with other open space committees and attending regional meetings, and continuing to participate in the all-County open space meeting in 2014.
4. Request to schedule a joint meeting with the City of Louisville Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) for some time during the third quarter, in Louisville.
5. Contact City and County of Broomfield regarding schedule to host a joint open space meeting in Superior this year.
6. Develop marketing strategy to publicize web-based trail mapping for Superior and regional trails.
7. Develop June 7 Trails Day event, including education and outreach program.
8. Coordinate with PROSTAC to receive citizen input on annual update of 5-Year Trails Plan.

Second Quarter:

1. Develop budget recommendations for:
 - a. Maintenance of open space and trails, and public education program.
 - b. Annual update of 5-year Trails Plan.
 - c. Educational opportunities for Committee and staff.
2. Host National Trails Day event on June 7.
3. Develop annual open space acquisition and trail project recommendations to submit to Boulder County – deadline for final submittal is typically in August.
4. Revisit previously identified open space acquisition priorities in conjunction with open space priorities for Boulder County.

Third Quarter:

1. Develop a public outreach program to educate public on the status of identified, but not acquired, properties – Shan Shan Chu, Zaharias, Bolejack and Level 3 – as well as previously acquired open space.
2. Have a presence at the Colorado Open Space Association (COSA) Conference.

3. Work with Boulder County on Hodgson Harris Reservoir project items:
 - a. Installation of bird perches.
 - b. Development of viewing access.
 - c. Coordinate opening event with Boulder County.

Fourth Quarter:

1. Update Open Space Management Plan to incorporate any new acquisitions.
2. Begin discussions regarding 2015 Work Plan.
3. Discuss potential wildlife enhancement/encouragement opportunities:
 - a. Engage neighboring jurisdictions to promote enlarging wildlife corridors (focusing on diversification of species, including prong-horned antelope)
 - b. Raptors – perches & nests

Shan Shan Chu Property

Background: The Town Board tasked OSAC with reviewing parcels not previously considered for inclusion in the Open Space Summary Report during their June, 2011 Joint Meeting with OSAC. This parcel takes on higher priority as open space due to the approval of the Superior Town Center development, and anticipated development of the Rogers property. Acquisition of this property could also allow secondary emergency access to South Original Town.

Location: This property is located just south of the Rogers Property, north of the Superior Pointe commercial property, on the west side of McCaslin Boulevard. It encompasses approximately 6.5 acres.

Description: This property is a sparsely vegetated lot with one structure and parking (often home to two or three RVs) and has a gated dirt access road; appears to receive minimal human use.

Parcel Status:

- O/S Requirement: 30 %
- Zoning: A-UR
- Development: None
- Annexed: Yes



OSAC Observations:

This property is important to the Town as high value open space in that (i) it would provide a wildlife migration corridor since the development of the Rogers parcel and the Town Center will reduce connectivity across these properties to the Coal Creek corridor; (ii) it provides regional trail connectivity between surrounding neighborhoods and the Coal Creek/Rock Creek Regional Trail System and open space to the west; (iii) it provides significant view corridors connecting the open space on the east side of McCaslin Boulevard to the Arsenault open space parcel and Boulder County parcels to the west.

The price of land within proximity to the Town Center area will presumably continue to rise over time. It is important to prioritize acquisition of this parcel sooner rather than later because of expected price increases and the diminishing amount of open land available in the Town Center area.

Observations showed this parcel to have a fair buffering potential from noise related to traffic on McCaslin, good views to the west, relatively poor air and noise quality, and is likely to have considerable nighttime light pollution once the Town Center is developed. It is not likely to have a high level of compatibility with adjacent land uses once the Rogers and the Town Center properties are developed, and may have historic value (to be verified). It is a small- to medium-sized tract. There are few mature trees, no surface water and the majority of the parcel is sparsely vegetated and not particularly pristine. It has a bunker-style home on the lot with a gated drive that is currently used to store two RVs.

For these reasons, the members of OSAC believe it is in the Town's best interest to negotiate acquisition of this parcel immediately.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend total parcel acquisition during its January 8, 2014 meeting.

OSAC ranked the property using the previous scale from 0-10, with 10 being High Quality, 5 being Medium Quality and 0 being Low/No Quality. The Committee, however, found the previous scoring system did not sufficiently capture the value of this particular property. The attribute categories are as follows:

1. Aesthetics
2. Management
3. Passive Use
4. Vegetation
5. Water
6. Wildlife

- aesthetics of the parcel, meaning the combination of many attributes that were "felt" as one stood on the parcel, or viewed the parcel
- findings of the Smith Environmental wildlife study
- waterways passing through Town providing connectivity and high quality riparian habitat
- cultural and historical areas of interest
- contiguity with existing open space parcels in and outside of Town
- geographic distribution of open space areas throughout the Town

Category	Attribute	Scores				Avg	
Aesthetic	Buffer Potential	10	8	10	10	9	
	Buffers and Greenbelts	8	8	8	10	8	
	Clean air	0	0	0	5	1	
	Compatibility with Adjacent Land	8	6	7	10	8	
	Cultural and Historic Resource	0	0	0	5	1	
	Light Pollution	5	0	2	10	4	
	Quiet	2	2	2	5	3	
	Visual Quality	4	3	5	10	5	
	Management	Large Tract	2	2	2	5	3
		Level of threats to existing resources	5	0	2	5	3
Partial usage/conservation easement		5	7	7	10	7	
Restoration Potential		4	5	4	10	5	
Proximity and Access		5	10	10	10	8	
Regional draw		3	5	5	10	6	
Suitability for Passive use		8	5	6	10	7	
Vegetation	Mature Tree Stands	0	0	0	5	1	
	Natural Communities	0	0	0	5	1	
	Noxious weeds	5	5	3	10	6	
	Pristine Quality	0	0	0	5	1	
	Riparian Vegetation	unsure	2		0	2	
	Wetlands	0	0	0	0	0	
Water	Aquifer Recharge area	0	0	0	0	0	
	Surface water	0	0	0	5	1	
Wildlife	Habitat Diversity	1	0		5	2	
	Migration Corridor/Connectivity	5	0	5	10	5	
	T & E Species	unsure			0	0	