OSRP Update 9th Meeting
December 20, 2018 7:30pm
Attendance: Evan Abramson (FRCOG), Miho Connolly (Conservation Commission Agent), Eva Gibavic (Rattlesnake Gutter Trust/Historical Commission), Patricia Smith (FRCOG), Ralph Tiner (Conservation Commission)

Blue = action items
Red = discussion item; needs input
Green = Administrative/minor corrections to be made

Administrative Matters:
- We are pushing up on the budget allotted by CPA funding. The FRCOG has allotted the project an extra $2000 in District Local Technical Assistance Funds.
- Pat Smith is retiring at the end of 2018. Evan Abramson will be taking over as our lead contact at the FRCOG.

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest
- Eva has compiled a list of lands in Conservation Restriction in Leverett. Pat assigned LocIDs to these parcels so that the list could be linked to ArcGIS
- Categories:
    - CR: "Permanently protected"
    - No CR but restricted in deed: "deed restricted"
    - No CR but owned by land trust: "Land trust- limited protection"
- **Eva will go through the inventory of conserved and partially conserved land (provided by the Assessor's office) and remove duplicates**-- Each parcel must have a single entry at the highest level of protection (e.g. If a parcel has a CR and is in Ch61, its entry must be removed from the list of Ch61 properties)
    - **Pat will send out revised inventory file to be updated**. Eva's info must be added to this file; each type of land (CR, deed restricted, etc) must be separated out into different tabs.
- *Action Item for Section 9: Permanently protect Town lands. Put CRs on Town properties and/or transfer Town lands to Conservation Commission property*
- When this section is complete, the data should be shared with the Assessor's office for their records.
- Cemetery list on assessors' inventory is out-of-date-- needs to be updated based on cemetery map. Eva has identified a thirteenth cemetery to be added and mapped.

Wetlands Data from US Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory (Ralph Tiner)
- Provides detailed inventory of wetlands, as well as predicted wetland functions in MA
    - Better quality inventory than MassGIS files
- Contains a high volume of data that is unrealistic to fit in the OSRP. With current budget concerns, we will plan to create a map with this data as an Appendix item if funding allows.
    - Ideas:
        - For each predicted wetland function, identify all high-priority wetland areas (use color/overlays to identify functions)
        - Identify wetlands that are high priority for 11 attributes, for 10 attributes, etc. (use colors/overlays to identify number of high-priority attributes)

- Pick one attribute (e.g. carbon sequestration, of floodwater retention) and create a map with just high priority wetlands (i.e., a teaser for an upcoming report)
- *Action Item for Section 9: Create a report on Leverett's wetlands using USFS data (we can apply for grant funding- re: flood protection, climate change...)*
- Ralph considers the dataset to be public information, and will share the dataset with the FRCOG.

Review of Draft Maps
- Reviewed: Regional Context, Cemeteries & Mills, LiDAR/DEM, Scenic Resources & Unique Environments, Soils & Environmental Constraints, Water Resources, Inventory of Conserved Lands
- Need adjustments for formatting for legibility, especially at 11x17 scale. Larger and darker texts and icons. Brook names are often clipped.
- Regional Context: Include symbology for transmission lines. "Town Center" and "Moores Corner" should match symbology for "East Leverett." "Peace Pagoda" needs an arrow.
- Cemeteries & Mills: Text for cemeteries needs to be more legible. Try darker base with brighter text?
    - What is CP Marvell B Shop?
    - Should "Moore Saw mill" be "Moores Saw Mill"?
- DEM: Remove gray text from Water Resources map. Change color scheme to grayscale, and add a legend for elevation
- Scenic Resources & Unique Environments: Inventory needs updating based on previous edits. Trails should be dotted, not solid. Use subtler symbology for transmission lines.
- Water resources: Remove structure footprints. Add outline and/or shading to wetland areas. (Update using Ralph's data?)
- Inventory of Conserved Lands: Legend does not match actual attributes. **Eva to review draft map, create shape files with corrected information to send to Ryan (FRCOG).** Info will be based on corrected inventory list (Assessors' and Eva's).

Third Draft of Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis
- Pat has removed loose ends from the last draft and accepted changes. Climate change information has been newly added, and the "Analysis (to be added)" section has been removed. If desired, we can consider going back and adding this at the end, but it is not necessary to the OSRP.
    - **Review and send back comments to FRCOG.**
- **Miho: locate and send photos to be added to Section 4**
- 10% of Leverett is prime farmland soil
    - **Confirm if this is contradicted in an earlier draft of Section 3 (Miho)**
    - Note that most of this prime farmland soil is currently forested.

Next Steps: Public Participation
- We need to think about ways to engage the public for later Sections of the Plan (e.g. Goals, Objectives, Action Plan)
- Surveys are a possible option
    - Pros: Easy to distribute, can obtain quantifiable data
    - Cons: Expensive, work-intensive; DCS will not accept survey results that are older than 3 years, difficult to obtain abundant and balanced participation, difficult to extrapolate survey results to actual attitude of the whole community
- Public forums are often a better option

- Two forums:
    - Initial Forum: Present data from Sections 3, 4, 5. Present the Action Plan from the last OSRP and evaluate progress. Ask the public to help identify broad goals and action items that need to be identified in the OSRP.
    - Follow-up Forum: Present completed OSRP with identified action plan. Ask public to help identify specific areas that need conservation.
- Tips: Provide an activity that engages the audience and provides records of participation. Make sure to record the issues presented, questions asked, suggestions, etc.