

*Christopher Keating*  
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday June 25, 2025, MEETING (Skaket Room) 9AM TOWN OF ORLEANS**

**Attendees:** OSC Members: Chair, Lynn O'Connell, Stephanie Gaskill, Hardie Truesdale, Christopher Keating and David Herrick, also attending Andrea Reed, Liaison for the Select Board via Zoom and Stephen O'Grady, Liaison for the OCT via Zoom.

1. **Call to Order:** Quorum with 5 members present. The Chair called the meeting to order at 0900AM.

2. **Public comment:** There was no public comment at this time.

**3. Committee roles and reappointments update:** The Chair first and foremost congratulated the members on a job well done in its contributions at the June Orleans Pond days event. The Chair then proceeded to discuss the recent select board meeting and was saddened to report that the board had decided not to renew two members terms following the expiration of their two three year terms. Stephanie Gaskill was a third member that had privately decided not to renew her membership. The Chair then questioned Andrea Reed about the recent select board decision and where we all stand as a committee. More importantly, the Chair stated that we are now down to three members and that one other member may resign as a consequence of this unfortunate news. If that were to happen, the committee would not have a quorum and the committee could possibly be forced to disband. Stephanie Gaskill also noted that the absence of staggered resignations makes it hard to recruit new members in a timely fashion. Hardie Truesdale mentioned that there have been rumors that this action may have been politically motivated in order that the OSC would be disbanded and a new land acquisition committee formed in its place. David Herrick commented that the move didn't make sense since the OSC did not have any new recruits to replace lost members. Hardie Truesdale also noted how hard it has been to find new recruits in the past. Andrea Reed, Liaison to the Select Board commented on the current situation and suggested that the OSC should send a letter to the select board asking that they place this matter on their next agenda for reconsideration. Stephanie Gaskill offered to draft this letter and that we could all sign once everyone had a chance to review and edit. Hardie Truesdale noted that as a committee it already felt like we were losing control after the 72 Tonset Road ended up being purchased by the town. This land was purchased for general purposes rather than for open space after the OSC was originally the group that had initiated talks with the owners. The Chair concluded by wondering where we currently stand as a committee? Stephanie Gaskill questioned whether she could still be a liaison to CPC if she is not a OSC member. Stephanie also noted how important the OCT is to the town and how the OSC works in conjunction with the OCT to complete many of its projects. Stephanie then motioned for the group to draft a letter addressing our concerns on this matter and for reconsideration by the Select Board on their recent vote. Christopher Keating seconded the motion. All the members approved the motion and also voted for Stephanie to draft this letter.

**4. Priority parcels update:** The Chair added humor to the meeting by informing everyone that the GIS mapping system has been updated again after we all had been generously trained by Stephen O'Grady in the previous year. However, the members all agreed that any and all improvements are always welcome! Moving on, Stephen O'Grady informed the members that an offer by the OCT was accepted by the owners of 32 Locust Road. This was a surprise for all the members and to hear this was certainly unexpected great news. Stephen informed the group that there is still work to do and the timeline to consider before all is said and done. The Chair noted how wonderful it is to be adding green space to an area of town that is experiencing rapid growth.

**5. CPC update:** In two quick matters, Stephanie Gaskill explained that the CPC was returning any unused money that was scheduled for the upcoming fall meeting. There was also a discussion that ensued at the CPC meeting concerning two annual deadlines for applications. Some CPC members saw this as allowing some more regular and prominent groups to have two bites at the apple. In Conclusion, Stephanie Gaskill asked Stephen O'Grady if he would be submitting an application for 32 Locust Road in time for the July deadline or if he would be applying in November? Stephen responded that in all likelihood, there was not enough time to submit the application in time by July, but that the OCT would be submitting an application for the November deadline.

**6. Approval of Minutes from the 5/21/2025 meeting:** Stephanie Gaskill moved to approve the 5/21/2025 minutes and David Herrick seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve the 5/21/2025 minutes.

**7. Next meeting scheduled:** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 16, 2025 at 9AM.

**8. Adjourn Meeting:** A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Hardie Truesdale at 0950 AM. David Herrick seconded the motion. All members present approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Christopher Keating Clerk