

Acton Open Space Committee
Approved minutes of March 6, 2009

Attending: Dick Hatfield, Andy Magee, Peter Ashton, Karen O'Neill, Jane Ceraso, Ruth Martin, Charlie Carlson, Tom Tidman, Susan Mitchell Hardt

1. Minutes of Feb 6th approved with revision/updated noted. (Peter Ashton had written an OSC summary for the town report).
2. Piper Lane update presented by Andy Magee: The town of Acton now owns the property. Some zoning may need to be done, and the house lot needs to be carved out from the protected open space. Goal is to get the house on the market soon. Andy will continue to manage this project.
3. Stonefield farm / Caouette: Update by Susan and Andy. They both met with SVT land protection staff recently to review the two projects. Because the farmed land crosses both landowners, it is important to continue to look at both projects together and not independently.

The committee and SVT continue to be very interested in the long term protection of this land with a conservation purchase of the Caouette land and a agricultural/conservation restriction purchase (depending on the landowners desires, other options may be possible) for the Stonefield farm.

Nevertheless, the committee also expressed concern about our several land conservation projects all competing for the limited CPA funds.

Next Steps: SVT is interested in assisting with fundraising efforts (target potential of \$500K). Open Space Committee will, as mentioned in our letter to the landowners, walk the properties in the spring when the weather improves. If the landowners are interested in selling to the town, an appraisal will be required as a next step.

4. Anderson property is still a priority parcel. OSC would like to have an update from the landowner and would like to convey our continued interest in working together.

VOTE: all voted in favor of sending letter before next meeting.

ACTION: Karen will draft letter.

5. River Street / Lazaro project: Peter reported reviewing the land and project with Doug Halley. There is a small 21E issue near the garage. Doug has not received a report yet, but there is a notice of responsibility. Health department is interested in the property, however, given the other land projects on the list, the Open Space Committee does not recommend that we pursue this one at this time. Andy will review the issue with the Selectmen .

6. Town meeting coming up. The only open space agenda will be the \$425K set aside funds. There may also be a motion for the conversion of a portion of the Whetherbee lands from conservation to conservation and agriculture.

7. Reviewed ongoing action items:

- Groener CR – Karen
- Appraisal set aside funds for CPC – Andy will review with town counsel
- Open Space Plan – Peter and Tom (other volunteers needed!)

NEXT MEETING: April 3, 2009 at 7:30 AM in town hall.