

Open Space Committee – Approved minutes

March 7, 2008



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

Review of properties

- Susan provided an update on the Stow Rd/Martin Street parcel. The property has 2 acre zoning, ownership is between 2 sisters and one brother. She has had an appraisal done and was disappointed with the value, however, she is not eager to sell right now. We do have an advantage of not competing with a developer if we make an offer now.

Next Steps: Susan will set up a meeting with the landowner and Tom Tidman to walk the wetlands.

- 180 Newtown Rd. Need an engineer to assist us with the assessment and review the appraisal.

Next Steps: Andy will introduce Charlie to the Town Manager and discuss the property with him.

- School street – 2 landowners/abutters. Have not returned calls, in part because of surgery.

Next Steps: Peter will call one of the owners to try and arrange a meeting.

- Mill Dam property: Andy sent an email after our last meeting, but did not get a response.

Reviewed results of the Open Space and Recreation survey. Tabulation and analysis was completed by Peter Ashton. He reported his findings to the Selectmen – which was sent to this committee in a separate email. There were a total of > 1200 responses (vs. 1400 last time) and the responses were generally the same as before.

Group discussion:

Given the variety and range of potential projects AND given the financial pressures in town, it was decided that we should try to compare and prioritize properties currently under discussion. It was agreed that the next "best" land projects should be:

Visible to the town

Link ecologically and physically with other conservation areas

Have conservation minded landowner

We discussed the various properties at length, comparing acreage, value, and the ability to pay for the land with CPA funds (and/or limited development).

NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 27, 7:30 AM