

Open Space Committee – approved minutes

March 28, 2008



Attending, , Dick Hatfield, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Peter, Peter Ashton, Andy Magee, Charlie Carlson, Karen O'Neill, Jane Ceraso, Ruth Martin, Cathy Fochtman

Open Space Committee meeting on March 28, 2008

Meeting opened at 7:35 AM

- 1) Minutes from March 7 meeting were approved
- 2) Update on 189 Newtown Rd. (report from Susan and Charlie) Susan had a detailed phone conversation with landowner. Charlie then met with landowner who reiterated what he had said to Susan – he does not want the town to walk the property and is looking to sell property to make money. We are not optimistic that he will want to sell for conservation now.
- 3) Update on School Street. (report from Susan and Peter) They will meet with both landowners today (3/28) to discuss both parcels (each about 5.7 acres).
- 4) Update on Mill Dam (Andy) – would like to use the same model as the Whitcomb property. Andy sent email to landowner. Parcel is a total of ~ 7 acres. Andy will arrange to update the town manager.
- 5) Open Space plan – Peter sent updates via emails. He noted there was considerable support for changes in zoning (re: wetlands and PCRCs).

- 6) Morrison Farm - Cathy Fochtman announced that 23 25x33' community garden plots were offered, and all were quickly taken. 41 garden plots "sold out" in North Acton. This shows there is keen interest in agriculture.

- 7) Susan Mitchell Hardt made a comment about publicity for the CPA Open Space Set Aside and for Open Space and Recreation Plan:

At the ACT table in the hallway leading into Town Meeting was a poster encouraging a "Yes" vote on Article 32 which would increase funds for open space preservation to \$1,750,000, 100 fliers showing the highlights of the Open Space and Recreation Plan as well as copies of the ACT Newsletter.

Also, she suggested that an article for the Beacon be submitted that would publicize the CPA's \$1,750,000 open space set aside and the Open Space Committee's desire to spend it on valuable lands. She also suggested that this article could be included in the town newsletter.

- 8) New opportunity – Andy noted that landowner for land abutting Sachem Way (near Wills Hole) (Map c4 or c5, parcel 16?) may have a conservation interest. Ken Hughes (via the Housing authority) told Andy that this landowner approached them about affordable housing. It may be a parcel as large as 16 acres. ACTION: Andy will talk to Ken and get more details.

Next meeting: May 2nd. 7:30 AM at town hall