

Acton Open Space Committee (OSC)
November 5, 2010
Public Session

Attending: Dick Hatfield, Peter Ashton, Charlie Carlson, Jeff Clymer, Terry Maitland, Jane Ceraso, Andy Magee

Staff and visitors: Tom Tidman, Mike Gowing, Susan Mitchell Hardt, Mary Michaelman

Peter Ashton opened the meeting at 7:30 AM

CPA Funding- Peter reported that the amount of CPA funding available for 2010 is higher than expected, largely because there are undedicated reserves. The total available is nearly \$1.5 million.

Discussion ensued as to the amount of CPA funding for open space that should be recommended by the OSC. Peter made a motion that the OSC should recommend \$500,000 for open space in this year's CPA funding allocation. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Peter agreed to draft the funding request for submission to the CPC.

Potential Land Gift- Peter presented the possibility of a gift to the town of two small parcels (B5-12 and B5-13) that are in North Acton. Each parcel contains about 1.5 acres. The parcels do not abut other conservation land and are landlocked but they are on the town's priority parcel list. Charlie made a motion that the Selectmen should investigate the potential gift further, including a Phase 1 environmental investigation. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Peter agreed to write to the Selectmen on behalf of the OSC.

Caouette Property- Mike Gowing updated the OSC on recent developments in the Town's acquisition of this property, including the signing of a further extension of the purchase agreement, pending execution of the land transfer and lease documents, and the brownfields covenant and environmental insurance.

Discussion then focused on the terms for the conservation restriction for the property. Visitor Mary Michaelman provided input as did Mike Gowing. Discussion of this matter concluded with a request from Peter Ashton that OSC members bring ideas for inclusion in the CR to the next OSC meeting.

Other Land Purchase Opportunities- OSC members discussed 18 Maple Street, a property that is for sale, and agreed that Terry Maitland will explore whether this property should be recommended for purchase by the town as access to the Caouette property.

The OSC also discussed the Quail Ridge property that is in foreclosure proceedings. Peter Ashton agreed to explore the possibility of town acquisition of this property.

The OSC also discussed their continuing interest in the 39 acre parcel in West Acton.

Tom Tidman agreed to lead a subgroup of the OSC that will look at other properties which are on the town's priority list for open space protection. Dick, Jane, Terry, Jeff, Tom and Susan will be part of this subgroup.

NEXT MEETING: December 3

Motion to adjourn. 8:35