

Acton Open Space Committee (OSC)
July 29, 2011- Public Session

Attending: Peter Ashton, Charlie Carlson, Andy Magee, Terry Maitland, Karen O'Neill, Jane Ceraso, Dick Hatfield
Staff and visitors: Tom Tidman, Susan Mitchell Hardt, , Jim Snyder-Grant, Bill Klauer for the Cemetery Commission

Peter opened the meeting at 7:31 AM

Minutes- The June 3, 2011 OSC meeting minutes (public session and executive session) were approved unanimously, except that Terry Maitland recused himself from the voting on the executive session minutes.

Caouette-Simeone Property- Continuing the discussion from the June 3 meeting, the OSC discussed issues relating to development of the conservation restriction on this property, including parking issues and the issue of pesticide use on the property in the future. Karen O'Neill reported that overall the CR committee is on track to submit the draft CR to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) this fall. The Sudbury Valley Trustees and the Acton Conservation Trust will be the holders of the CR.

Open Space Committee Goals For 2011- Peter reported that he had submitted to the BOS a list of basic goals for the OSC. Committee members affirmed that among their goals are completion of the update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, continued funding of CPA and increasing the visibility of the OSC and its work.

81 Wood Lane- Jim Snyder-Grant and Susan Mitchell-Hardt described their ongoing efforts to arrange the town's purchase of a portion of this property, which abuts the Arboretum. Peter agreed to urge the BOS to act on this acquisition, and recommend the purchase for town meeting approval.

12 Summer Street- Peter reported that the property owner is exploring sale of his property for a five lot subdivision. Bill Klauer of the Cemetery Commission reported to the OSC that the Commission is in favor of the town's acquisition of this property by purchase or other means due to its proximity to the cemetery. Peter agreed to discuss this acquisition with the Town Manager.

Milldam Trust Properties- Peter reported that the Town Manager is still considering possible acquisition of some or all of these small parcels and will be meeting with the owner.

North Acton Properties (B5- 13)- Peter reported that the Town Manager is still considering the owner's proposal to give this small parcel to the town, and a Chapter 21E study is underway.

Butterbrook Farm Land- A site walk occurred in June, and Susan Mitchell-Hardt reported that she has been in contact with the owner regarding his asking price. The OSC discussed whether it should take a formal position as to whether the town should seek to buy this property. The OSC decided that given the asking price and other more highly valued parcels in the pipeline, that we would not recommend acquisition of this parcel.

Prioritization of Parcels- The OSC agreed to use their next meeting to discuss the several large parcels that may be available for town purchase in the near future and the prioritization of these parcels.

Motion to adjourn. 8:50

NEXT MEETING: August 26, 2011