

9-6-13

Open Space Committee Minutes

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Attendees: Andy Magee, Karen O'Neill, Peter Ashton, Jane Ceraso, ~~Diran Harfield, Terry Maitland, Matt Mostoller, Dave Clough, Tom Tidman, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Franny Osman, Fran Portante.~~

Jane Ceraso kept minutes. The meeting was opened at 7:32 AM.

The problem with some committee members not being on the official OSC roster should now be resolved; those members have all been reinstated/sworn in.

The Committee (sadly) accepted Karen O'Neill's resignation, and thanked Karen for her many years as a Clerk, and for her work getting the Caouette conservation restriction finalized.

There was a discussion about the OSC minutes not being available on the town's docushare. It was decided that this wasn't critical, as long as the minutes were available via the website, but that the committee would work toward getting them on the docushare as well. The OSC website page should be uploaded to the Town website now that the committee membership roster is updated.

Fran Portante will now be working with Tom Tidman's office part-time to help with a number of issues, including keeping track of the Town's conservation restrictions.

Wright Hill parcel: Franny Osman represented the Wright Hill Association and reported that Joe Rice had sold the parcel with the home to the Wright Hill Association. The Association plans to have an appraisal done, sell the house on a smaller piece of land, and then hopes to sell the remaining land for conservation purposes to the town (via CPC). Stamsky and McNary are currently working on plans for dividing the land. The Association plans to bring a proposal to the CPC in November. ACT will be sponsoring a site walk on the parcel on October 27th.

Dunn Property: The Acton portion of this parcel is approximately 6 acres. Progress continues towards its preservation, led by the Stow Conservation Trust.

Knox Trail: The Acton Water District will close on this 4.1 acre parcel in late September. The AWD has not yet determined the exact use for the land.

Anderson Property: The Selectmen approved the "unique" status of this land. Andy suggested that the committee write down the items to be included in the conservation restriction on this parcel. Peter said that he would write up his thoughts. Dave Clough said that he would make sure the Selectmen were aware of the OSC's concern that access to the open space portion of this parcel is noted in the P & S and/or relevant closing documents.

Open Space Plan: The maps are now completed and being incorporated into the final draft. The final draft will be routed for public comments by January 1, 2014.

Grassy Pond parcels: Several parcels which abut Grassy Pond are coming up for sale along Nagog Hill Road. The committee noted that, while these parcels may not be contiguous with any large conservation parcel, they may have conservation value. As these parcels come up for sale, the committee should keep track of their status.

Madden Land: The Madden's have sold a portion of their property to a developer. That developer is currently before the Conservation Commission with a proposal for 2 houses on the purchased property. An issue remains as to the property line between the cemetery and the "Madden" land.

81 Wood Lane: This parcel will enhance open space and access at the Arboretum. The sale to the town closes September 13th.

Butterbook Farm: The 14 acre Butterbrook Farm parcel has been sold to Butterbrook, LLC. Plans for the parcel are unclear at this point.

Committee Membership: The Committee discussed the need for a new Clerk, given Karen's resignation, and the possibility of someone stepping in as Chair to replace Andy. Jane volunteered, and was voted in as the new Clerk.

The next OSC meeting will be October 4th at 7:30 AM.