



CITY OF DOVER

OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Council Conference Room, 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Thursday, February 4, 2021**
Meeting Time: **5:00 PM**

Members Present: Anna Boudreau (Chair); Kristen Murphy (Vice Chair); Bruce Batchelder; Ann Reid; Nancy O'Connor; Mary Beth Rudolph; Nabia Fortier; Anne Kotlus; Isaac Epstein, Nancy Volpe, Dennis Dwyer

Absent (Excused): Leslie Herd

Un-Excused Absent:

Staff Present: Steve Bird

1. Roll Call Attendance

Boudreau opened the meeting and read the following statement:

I find an 'emergency' exists within the meaning of RSA 91-A:2, III(b). Immediate action is imperative and the physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practical within the period of time requiring action. The facts on which my finding of an 'emergency' is based are the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the need to accommodate social distancing and minimization of in-person contacts, and this body's ongoing, immediate need to address the important matters on the agenda for this meeting.

Boudreau conducted a roll call to determine which members were present and asked each member to state that the reason they could not attend was the COVID-19 pandemic and to indicate if they were alone at their location.

All 11 members present indicated they were not attending due to COVID-19 and that they were alone in their location. Epstein agreed to take notes this evening.

Boudreau welcomed two new members: Dwyer and Volpe and thanked them for joining.

2. Citizens Forum: None

3. Approval of Minutes for November 19, 2020

Murphy asked about easement naming conventions. O'Connor motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Murphy seconded. Roll Call Vote: 11-0

4. Treasurer's Report

Bird reported that the Conservation Fund balance at end of January 2021 was \$1,321,626.73 and receivables are at \$316,306.84.

5. Public Projects: None

6. Report by Task Groups

a. Easement Monitoring

Bird thanked members who helped wrap up easement for reports due to funding agencies and SELT. A few members have even already started monitoring for 2021. When the weather improves, we'll start a list of easements that we must monitor this year, which varies from 30 to 50.

Discussed ways to make easement monitoring easier by using map applications and following up on the use of a City tablet to take in the field. Bird will check with the IT Department. O'Connor discussed another program (ArcGIS Survey 1,2,3) that would serve a similar use.

We'll have a training session soon.

b. Outreach and Education



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i. Discussion on Pollinator Workshop

We had hoped to do a pollinator workshop last summer but it got cancelled due to COVID. Murphy: We've decided to push it back again to the fall. There will be a speaker and then walk through Herd's demonstration gardens. New possible dates: September 11 or 18.

Discussion about how large an event it might be and contingencies about whether it might be pushed back again. Herd is working on a separate event that may still go ahead in June.

ii. Review of OLC Update to City Council on 12/9/20

Boudreau discussed her appearance before the city council to update them about the work of the OLC. Bird recommended that new members look at the report to learn about the work that the OLC does.

Boudreau has discussed with Bird and Murphy about doing a meeting specifically dedicated to Land Conservation for members of the OLC.

Bird: It would probably be best to have this as a regular meeting in the early fall once we're past the pandemic. Chair offered to do one-on-one meetings with new members to fill in any gaps.

O'Connor asked the new members to introduce themselves.

Dwyer: Land Conservation 101 would be very helpful. Dwyer introduced himself to the committee. Got involved in the OLC after attending the citizen's academy.

Volpe introduced herself and talked about her experience in gardening. Background is in program management.

Bird: Conservation and open space chapter in the master plan is due for an update.

O'Connor asked members to send photos or content for the OLC's social media pages

c. **Community Trail**

A portion of the trail was paved in the fall. It's not officially open yet but people are using it.

7. **New Business:** None

8. **Old Business:** None

9. **Enter non-Public Session**

Kotlus made a motion to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A3, II(D) to report on the status of individual land protection efforts and transactions. Rudolph seconded. All members approved on a roll call vote.

We reentered public session at 6:27. Epstein made a motion to seal the minutes per RSA 91:A(3) because its divulgence would render the proposed action ineffective. Kotlus seconded. All approved on a roll call vote.

10. **Confirm Next Meeting**

Not currently scheduled. Maybe sometime in April. We may need to meet sooner. It will be at the call of the Chair.

11. **Adjourn**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.