

CITY OF DOVER

OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 1st Floor Conference Room, 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022
Meeting Time: 5:30 PM

Members Present: Anna Boudreau (Chair); Kristen Murphy (Vice Chair); Nancy O'Connor, Ann Reid; Nabia Fortier; Nancy Volpe, Dennis Dwyer, Anne Kotlus, Shawn Herrick

Absent (Excused): Bruce Batchelder, Isaac Epstein (just had a new baby!), Leslie Herd, Mary Beth Rudolph

Un-Excused Absent:

Staff Present: Jackson Kaspari

1. Roll Call Attendance

Boudreau opened the meeting at 5:33 PM and did a roll call.

2. Citizens and member forum

- Ann Reid mention that the annual "[Saving Special Places](#)" conference, an annual land conservation conference is happening again this year. – Friday, April 1 and Saturday April 2, virtual via Zoom.
- Kristen Murphy announced that the state Land conservation plan has been updated - a survey to provide input is available. Also, four legislative bills have been proposed to expand upon a virtual meeting setting. As part of the updated plan the Committee should consider reviewing the project criteria ranking form.

3. Approval of Minutes for November 4, 2021

Murphy motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Volpe seconded. Vote: U/A.

4. Treasurer's Report

Kaspari reported that the unreserved Conservation Fund balance as of December 31, 2021 was \$1,494,239.03, with \$281,107 in accounts receivable.

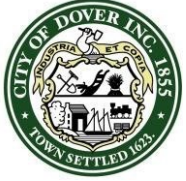
5. Public Land Conservation Projects:

Boudreau and Kaspari attended the City Council meeting last week where they approved the purchase of 10 acres behind 20 Arch Street. COVID introduced some delays to the closing progress but we are expecting to close on this parcel within the next couple weeks. Several great ideas and questions came up from members: Community gardens, involve WPS (Woodman Park School), involve the UNH Extension Master Gardeners, trail formations linking Silver Square.

6. Report by Task Groups

• Easement Monitoring

Kaspari said all of the properties that had to be monitored by the end of the year were done: Garland/Estes/Moll were completed and reported to SELT. Boudreau thanked everyone for their work to get easement monitoring done. After monitoring for over 15 years, it's good to have a fresh crew out there helping out. Now we start again and will look at the monitoring schedule to start after or around 'black fly' season. The Morin property has to be monitored this year in the Spring to confirm and check for vernal pools.



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- **Outreach and Education**

- Members have really enjoyed and found beneficial the outreach and education programs offered last year. Leslie Herd's Pollinator presentation was a super success. She plans to repeat it this year.
- Plans for future: Need more ideas to expand such as: moth event in the late spring/summer or other kid-friendly event and a vernal pools workshop. A full moon hike was decided on for March 18th. Members see the need for more visibility when it comes to activities like this.

- **Community Trail** – No update this month

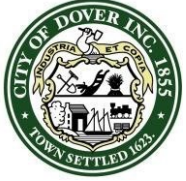
7. New Business: Boudreau asked the committee members what goals they had in mind for the OLC in 2022?

- Murphy thought the Committee should take a look at the rating criteria with latest conservation plan update - subcommittee should be formed for this. Interest for involvement was expressed by: Kaspari, Murphy, Boudreau, Kotlus, Dwyer, Volpe, Herrick and Fortier.
- Fortier and others mentioned the desire to continue our outreach events and workshops to engage the community. All agreed.
- Volpe asked where in the process do Open space subdivision plans come to the Open Lands committee or Conservation Commission? They don't come before the committee so she and Kaspari will see if Volpe can attend Technical Review Committees (TRC) meetings, which occurs before a developer presents their subdivision plans to the Conservation Commission followed by the Planning Board. This would be an opportunity to provide input on best location for meaningful open space. Kaspari will look into this and Volpe volunteers to attend the TRC meetings.
- Volpe asked if the Committee has thought of using drones for easement monitoring. Do land trusts use them? Boudreau and Murphy explained that yes, some land trusts use them but it is more applicable to large properties with 100s of acres of land. Not as suitable for more urban settings and for smaller parcels like we have in Dover.
- Boudreau asked if we could look into having possibly two iPads for easement monitoring purposes. Kaspari looked into it last year but the program was cumbersome. Herrick and Kaspari will have a meeting of the minds to explore different technology options.
- Boudreau had hoped to prepare and review a list of our accomplishments for 2021 including working on the Arch street project and increasing our outreach events but decided to hold off until the March meeting.

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. O'Connor seconded. All members approved on a roll call vote at 6:32 pm.



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The Committee reentered public session at 7:07 PM. Murphy made a motion to seal the minutes per RSA 91:A(3) because its divulgence would render the proposed action ineffective. Fortier seconded. Vote: U/A.

10. **Confirm Next Meeting:** March 10th at 5:30 PM.

11. **Adjourn**

The Chair declared meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.