



CITY OF DOVER

OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Hall 1st Floor Conference Room, 288 Central Ave., Dover
Meeting Date: **Thursday, May 23rd, 2024**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

Members Present: ☒ Anna Boudreau (Chair), ☒ Kristen Murphy (Vice Chair), ☒ Shawn Herrick (Secretary)
☐ Anne Kotlus, ☒ Nabia Fortier, ☒ Nancy O'Connor, ☐ Ann Reid, ☒ Melissa Wood ☒ Mary Beth Rudolph,
☐ Nancy Volpe, ☐ Chris Lawrence, ☒ Chris Staub, ☒ Kieran Seavey

Absent (Excused):

Ann Reid, Nancy Volpe, Chris Lawrence

Un-Excused Absent: Anne Kotlus

Staff Present: Jackson Kaspari

1. Roll Call Attendance

A. Boudreau opened the meeting and did a roll call.

2. Citizens and Member Forum (5 minute limit)

- A. Boudreau – A property on Tolend Rd. was recently sold to a developer and some concerned neighbors asked if there was anything the OLC could do. Years ago we did reach out to the owner but there was no official response at that time. Boudreau reminded the OLC that our first criteria is an 'interested' landowner so if the current owner/developer wishes to speak to us and discuss various options, we would welcome the conversation if they came to us, but at this time that has not happened.

3. Approval of Minutes for March 21st, 2024 (3 minutes)

K. Murphy motioned to approved the minutes. C. Staub seconded. Vote: 7 yes with S. Herrick abstaining.

4. Treasurer's Report (3 minutes) – Jackson Kaspari

- Conservation Fund: \$1,439,718.78
- Receivable: \$738,712.96
- Total: \$2,178,431.74

5. Public Land Conservation Projects (25 minutes)

Arch Street Updates – J. Kaspari – Everyone is aware of neighbor's concerns related to the property. J. Kaspari reached out to Lt. Mitrushi and noted there are no active encampments on that property but are current encampments on private land abutting the property. The Police Chief was contacted and recommended not moving forward with property improvements until there is security improvements; a trail system could cause more issues related to the encampments. N. Fortier – mentioned that there are other trails without security features and don't have issues, however those examples are part of the Community Trail. N. O'Connor asked about some of the improvements related to a community garden and if it were still possible. The OLC discussed possibilities and thoughts about how we could do something with the property as well as focusing out efforts elsewhere until the security issue is resolved/improved. J. Kaspari – we could focus on the outdoor rain garden at the Woodman Park School property. N. O'Connor suggested we could focus on that existing rain garden and perhaps new rain gardens for the other schools. This committee could find out more about what needs to be



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done at that site. K. Murphy mentioned that we could supplement efforts to support this. A. Boudreau

mentioned that we could vote to show support for maintenance and development of educational use.

Vote: K. Murphy motioned to show support for maintenance and development of educational use. C. Staub second. Motion passed U/A.

More OLC discussion related to the Arch St. property and what would need to be done in order for schools/public to use the property. A. Boudreau suggested removing Arch St from the regular meeting reports and add it in occasionally when we need to check in on any progress.

Stockbower Project – 170 Garrison Road – J. Kaspari informed the committee of the latest information. We are waiting a response from the lender on the ability to grant a partial release of the mortgage which is required before we can close on this conservation easement.

Lombard Project – 198 Blackwater Road – J. Kaspari reminded us that TriTech has done all the fieldwork and presented a conservation easement plan for review. At this point, we need to work on drafting the Conservation Easement Deed; we are getting closer to this. A. Boudreau likes to keep the landowner in the loop as of the progress and will touch base with them to give them an update.

6. Report by Task Groups

A. Outreach and Education (10 minutes)

- a. K. Murphy – the files have been moved to a more official site with J. Kaspari's help. K. Murphy along with K. Seavey met and discussed his idea to use Geocaching to educate and generate some interest – we could have containers with some environmental information at sites. This could become a treasure hunting type Geocaching event. K. Seavey did some work related to the cost of the containers, possible sites, any printing for materials, etc. N. Fortier mentioned that her family loves these types of events but suggested that there could be an OLC type “treasure” or incentive for people to find. K. Seavey mentioned the possibility of using local business coupons or Dover Dollars and there was some committee discussion on how this might work. N. O'Connor thought it would be worth engaging the Business Development Department on this. A. Boudreau asked if this was just to happen on open public lands or if it could happen perhaps on private lands with conservation easements. K. Murphy suggested focusing on City owned property first in order to help education people on those properties. K. Seavey mentioned how we could get the word out – perhaps a brochure. He also mentioned potential ways and people to get involved to update some of this Committees outreach materials. N. Fortier suggested we try to incorporate some City history as well. J. Kaspari offered that there are 23 parks in Dover that we could use. K. Seavey will report more on this at the next meeting.
- b. Leslie Herd, former OLC member, held her first of 3 workshops; there was mention that there was a wait list.



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B. Easement Monitoring (10 minutes)

- a. J. Kaspari – we need to start thinking about doing the monitoring; has been out to a few of the properties; it usually happens mid to late summer.

7. New Business:

A. Dover Natural Resources Inventory Update (10 minutes)

- a. J. Kaspari – there was a community survey that went out and just closed; hoping to gain a lot of good feedback; got close to 200 responses. There will be a review with the Strafford Region Planning Commission. There will also be an ecological assessment by Sarah Large with FB Environmental, for the New Meadows conservation area that is open to the public. K. Murphy mentioned that we could ask the Scouts to help with the bridge needs for the various wetland crossings that would eventually be required for a trail extension.

B. Conservation and Open Space Master Plan Chapter Update (5 minutes)

- a. N. O'Connor asked about the time slider for the report. J. Kaspari reported that the committee is meeting to review several things including work on the slider on the website to show historical changes. J. Kaspari also mentioned there would be a StoryMap developed.

We sent flowers to Ann Reid from this committee because of a recent injury. She was staying at St Ann's Rehab Center.

8. Old Business

None

9. Enter non-Public Session – Report on the status of individual land protection efforts / transactions per RSA 91-A:3, II(d) (20 minutes)

N. O'Connor made a motion to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II(D) to report on the status of individual land protection efforts and transactions at 6:18 PM. S. Herrick seconded. All members approved on a roll call vote.

The Committee reentered public session and agreed to seal the minutes.

N. O'Connor motioned to seal the non-public meeting minutes per RSA 91-A(3) because its divulgence would render the proposed action ineffective. K. Murphy seconded. Voted: U/A

Mary Beth Rudolph entered the meeting after a Housing Committee meeting at 6:49 pm.

10. Confirm Next Meeting:

The next meeting is at July 25th, 2024.

11. Adjourn

A. Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 6:57pm.