

Dover

Open Lands Committee Public Minutes  
August 3, 2006

Present: Marcia Colbath, Dona Masi Layton, John Scruton, Tom Fargo, Wendy Scribner, Cheryl Niles, Amy Perry, Anne Kotlus, Joyce El Kouarti, Steve Bird, Anna Boudreau, David Price

Dona will give Marcia edited minutes.

#1 The June 8, 2006 minutes were approved. Tom Fargo First / Amy Perry Second

#2 Treasurer's Report

Steve reported that the balance in the Conservation Fund was \$814.49.00 at the end of June.

Dispersements: Holley \$368,000.00 / Stern \$230,000.00

Tom queried Steve about the \$1000.00 Liberty Mutual was paying to the fund.

Discussion pursued about thank you notes for Liberty Mutual, the Nye Family, Gary Allen of Upper Factory,

Ray Martineau, etc.

With all the good news there was consideration of a press release highlighting our latest acquisitions.

Approved. Tom First / Joyce Seconded

Amy Perry asked where our funds come from. We explained that there is a Current Use penalty assessed by the City when land is taken out of Current Use and that our Conservation Fund receives 10% of market value.

#3 Discussion on getting second appraisals

Since the last transaction where the Stearns property was unanimously approved by the City Council; then David Scott wanted a second appraisal and talked about rescinding the vote - OLC needs to have a definitive understanding. Marcia, Anna & Steve took this on and shared the following:

Our appraisals are more costly than most because of the extensive detail required. It would be an unwarranted expense to have second appraisals without cause. However, whenever there's any question at all we will certainly get a second appraisal. Brian Stern got his own appraisal. Many times the landowners get their own appraisal. Our Financial Director, Jeff Harrington, wants the City to get its own appraisal. He encourages landowners to get their own. We will go on a case by case basis. Mr. Stern picked a Cooperative Extension approved appraiser, which OLC provides a list of same. Mr. Stern then gave the City a 25% reduction.

Depending on what matching grants OLC is pursuing we may even have to provide for a third appraisal.

Federal funds sometimes require this.

#4 Report on the status of public projects

Anna reported that it looks like we will be receiving \$155,643 x 2 of the \$387,00 requested in funding for Tuttle's.

Nature Conservancy should be closing in September. The DOT Public Hearing on the Wetlands Mitigation for

Dover/Newington is September 2 or 30th. Mr. Krans is trying to close on the balance. Two weeks notice for funds is needed. \$300,000.00 may go towards Tuttle's if our non-public project goes through. Tom thought that they might contribute towards our easement monitoring effort.

August 11 was the date set for the Stern closing. However the title search is not completed and the date cannot be set yet.

Anna brought us up to date on the Holley property:

The survey is done. Feds need to see the appraisal. 17 acres removed from FRPP. The money will be the same for Dover. More forest determined - less fields.

#5 Reports by Task Groups

a. Easement Monitoring

City Environmental Project Manager Dean Peschel and Code Enforcement Officer Tom Clark are pursuing an encroachment on an easement at the Estes/Moll location.

They delivered a desist order and told them to restore the area.

David Price recommended that we give Open Space project surveyors the OLC boundary signs. That way we can depend on the accuracy of placement. Steve Bird would like a GPS reading and a picture of the marker to go in each file folder. Then they can be displayed on a map and coordinates given to the volunteer easement monitors.

Tom and Steve mentioned that we have several new properties that need to be marked. Anne Kotlus volunteered to be on the baseline documentation sub-committee.

b. Outreach & Education

Joyce is heading up the OLC effort at Apple Harvest Day.

Dona is leading the Agriculture Panel project. She's writing to Digit Taylor, Kathleen Shea of the Farm Museum and Gayle McWilliam of The Extension Service.

Other suggestions:

Walk on the Cassily Property.

Covell on migratory birds.

Booklet directing people to preserved open spaces.

c. Grant Writing

SRPC will help with maps for granting projects. Anna very glad (as many were) that Dover paid dues to SRPC.

\$1,500.00 available for water supply land. Open criteria.

d. Trails

The builder wants to put signage at Whittier Falls. Parameters were discussed (no vehicles, no litter, no hunting, pedestrian access, during daylight hours.)

Steve Bird would like to see symbols used on the signage for the community Trail. Tom related that SRPC owns the Uniform Traffic Control Devices Manual.

There's a gap between Bellamy Park and New Meadows. Chris Parker found a connection - White Cliffs. From Route 155 at Knoxmarsh it's all open to Watson Road.

Marcia told us that Doyle Skeels agreed to give access to trestle bridge and right-of-way connective to Bagdon/Kirkwood.

#6 New Business

Joyce invited everyone to the Moose Mountains Regional Greenway's 4th Annual Woods, Water and Wildlife Festival August 19 in Milton Mills, NH. Cow Patty Bingo will be a new feature!

#7 Enter Non-Public Session - Reports on the status of individual land protection efforts/transactions per RSA 91 - A:3 so as not to compromise negotiations.

#8 Dona moved to adjourn, Joyce seconded. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Bucklin Niles