



CITY OF DOVER

OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Council Conference Room – 288 Central Ave, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Thursday, May 3, 2007**
Meeting Time: **5:30 pm**

In attendance: Anna Boudreau, Marcia Colbath, Dona Layton, Tom Fargo, Steve Bird, Anne Kotlus, Cheryl Niles, John Scruton, Joyce El Kouarti

- 1) Approval of Minutes.
Motion to table approval of March and April 2007 meeting minutes.
- 2) Treasurer's report.
Balance of the Conservation Fund as of March 31, 2007 was \$410,873.66.
- 3) Update on Public Projects.

a. Tsimekles:

The Conservation Commission and the Open Lands Committee had agreed to have a third appraisal conducted. Steve Bird reported that the city has received four bids for this work. The DOT would prefer for the city to have its own appraisal. The question now is whether the appraisal should be a "yellow book" appraisal. Steve Bird asked if he should check with the lowest bidder to see if this firm would do a yellow book appraisal for the same price that has been quoted. If not, he will ask what the difference in cost would be. The Cons. Com. and the OLC previously voted to spend up to \$7,000 to appraise the Tsimekles property. Tom Fargo asked if the DOT would have its own appraisal done. Steve Bird explained that the DOT would be satisfied with an appraisal provided by the City of Dover.

To show the city's good faith in working with the DOT, the Dover City Council had voted on a resolution to support preservation projects in the Blackwater Brook area, with the contingency that the resolution did not commit the city. The DOT, it seems, is still looking for assurances of Dover's seriousness about the Blackwater Brook project.

Joyce El Kouarti moved that Steve Bird write a non-binding letter, reiterating the city's interest and commitment to preserving the Blackwater Brook area, to be signed by City Manager Mike Joyal.

Stafford Rivers Conservancy will hold the conservation easement on the Tsimekles property.

b. Hunt:

At its meeting on April 25, the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to support a conservation easement on the Hunt property. The easement is now being written and drafts have been sent to Bill Hunt and to Attorney Jim Shulty. Attorney Shulty asked about the public utility easement on the Hunt property, which allows vehicles to go onto the land. Steve Bird will send this question to the NRC for a response.

For the Council meeting on May 9, a package of materials on the project is being prepared. Materials include the economic analysis and some of the easement language.

Tom Fargo stated that the Conservation Commission is interested in the OLC's action as to what the committee thinks is a comfortable arrangement for reimbursing Hunts to compensate for the different appraisal values. The recommendation is that the total value not exceed



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\$15,000 (which will probably include the cost of the boundary survey and the monitoring fee, at least).

Joyce El Kouarti moved to recommend an expenditure from the Conservation Fund for the cost of both the easement monitoring and the boundary survey. Second by Dona Layton. Anna Boudreau recused herself from the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Reports by Task Groups:

EASEMENT MONITORING – No news. The task group will be reporting to the OLC on its monitoring work in the near future.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION – Joyce El Kouarti suggested asking energy advisory committee member Eric Kelsey to speak to the OLC at the next meeting in June. Mr. Kelsey is a specialist in sustainable agriculture. One of the reasons for inviting him to an OLC meeting is to discuss the possibility of the OLC and the Energy Advisory Committee co-sponsoring a workshop tying sustainable agriculture to climate change.

On a side note to this topic, Tom Fargo suggested contacting Dorn Cox, a UNH student working on producing bio-crops for renewable fuels. Tom thinks that the OLC should consider talking to Mr. Cox about planting a bio-crop at the Cochecho River Conservation Area (former Cassily property) on 6th Street, as a bio-diesel demonstration project for public awareness.

GRANT WRITING – no news

TRAILS – Tom Fargo announced that, with the exception of the Dover Baseball property the city has secured access rights for the Community Trail from Route 155 adjacent to Knox Marsh Brook to the Measured Progress trail on Watson Road.

5) New Business:

OLC Chair Marcia Colbath has been asked to collect questions from the OLC to ask of candidates who are applying for the position of Dover Planning Director. OLC members are to send interview questions to Marcia in the next few days.

6) Anna Boudreau moved to enter into nonpublic session to discuss the status of individual land protection efforts/projects per RSA 91-A:3. Motion second by Cheryl Niles. Motion passed unanimously.

7) Steve Bird motioned to exit nonpublic session and to seal nonpublic minutes. Second by Joyce El Kouarti. Motion passed unanimously.

8) Steve Bird motioned to adjourn. Second by Joyce. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.
May 2007 OLC minutes respectfully submitted by Dona Masi Layton.