

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF DOVER OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING
Dover City Hall, City Council Chambers, 5:30 p.m.
January 14, 2005

Present: Steve Bird, Ann Reid, John Scruton, Dave Price, Sherry Towle, Marcia Colbath, Anna Boudreau, Janice Gardner, Joyce El Kourati, Dona Layton, Tom Fargo, Geoffrey Njue, Cheryl Niles. Absent were Nancy Quinlan, Chris Snow, Wendy Scribner.

- 1) Acceptance of December minutes as corrected - Motion Steve Bird. Second Anna Boudreau. Abstaining: Tom Fargo, Dave Price, Sherry Towle, Anna Beaudreau
- 2) Treasurer's Report: As of January the balance in the Conservation Fund was \$819,010.00
- 3) Presentation given by Bruce Woodruff, Transportation Planner for Dover. His goal is to establish a city-wide recreational and alternative transportation trail. Bruce asked the OLC for their support to establish a city-wide trail. He asked OLC members to support the Conservation Commission's recent decision to expend funds from the Conservation Fund for appraisals of two properties located along the old railroad Right of Way that parallels Locust Street between Silver St. & Central Ave.

The final designs should be finished between May and July of 2005. It is hoped that construction will take place between October '05 and June '06. The City Council must approve the bid from contractors.

May have to ask for an additional 20% funding. The project has City Council approval.

- 3a.) Joyce did research with the NH Municipal Association re the Change of Use funds. She stated that it was reasonable to assume conservation as a use for these funds, as the trail project has been referenced in our master plan for years, as an important connector between conservation lands.

There followed an extensive discussion of future trail use.

- 4) Reports on Subcommittees

EASEMENT MONITORING TEAM UPDATE – Anna brought a sample folder to illustrate the continuing work that is being done by the subcommittee to complete the documentation for each parcel. Photographs are among the items that must be supplied to the folders.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION - Short discussion of the Vernal Pool workshop upcoming in April.

GRANT WRITING - Nothing to report

TRAILS - The Garrison Hill trail group is working on the trail Sunday mornings. Marcia suggests a need to meet with Bruce Woodruff to establish goals and priorities. She will arrange a meeting of the Trail Committee for February.

LANDOWNER ACTION

Dona suggested the formation of a new subcommittee, Land Conservation or Landowner Action, to focus on working directly with Dover landowners to facilitate conservation easements. Joyce will organize the first meeting.

*Steve told the committee that we have closed on the BROWN and WILLIAMS PROPERTIES. He suggested we do PR with photos. Anna will write about the Brown property and Joyce will write on the Williams property.

Steve is completing the grant report for the NH ESTUARIES PROJECT.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Price reported on the recently completed SELF ASSESSMENT FORMS. Committee members were pleased overall with the OLC's progress in 2004, particularly its successful grant writing initiatives & the progress of the easement monitoring team.

SUPPORT OF LCHIP

Joyce reported on a letter from Dave Moffat of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests asking the committee to voice its support for LCHIP. We have been asked to provide a letter for LCHIP to Governor Lynch. Joyce suggested that we seek approval and signature for a letter of resolution in support of LCHIP from the City Council. Joyce updated an old letter that we used back in 2002 to be used as basis for this letter of support. Committee voted unanimously to approve this activity. Dona will appear before the Council to ask Councilors to support.

Anne Reid moved to go into non-public session. Second by Joyce.
Approved unanimously

Committee resumed public session. Steve moved to accept the December 2004 minutes as amended. Approved unanimously

Committee voted to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.