

**City of Dover Open Lands Committee
Minutes of May 5, 2005
Dover City Hall, City Council Chambers, 5:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Tom Fargo, Dona Layton, Sherri Towle, Cheryl Niles, Wendy Scribner, David Eisler, Janice Gardner, Steve Bird, John Scruton, Marcia Colbath, Anna Boudreau, Anne Koltus, Geoffrey Njue. Absent: Dave Price, Joyce El Kouarti, Chris Snow

- 1) Tom moved to move into non-public session. Seconded by Anna. Vote U/A.
- 2) 6:40 p.m., Anna moved to end non-public session and to commence with public meeting. Seconded by David Eisler. Vote U/A.
- 3) Tom moved to accept the April minutes as amended. Seconded by Anna. Vote U/A. Abstentions: Geoffrey and Anne K.
- 4) Tom moved, seconded by Cheryl, re item 2 of the non-public meeting, that the OLC will recommend that the Conservation Commission approve an appraisal, with the understanding that the OLC will ask the landowner to sign a *Memorandum of Understanding*. Vote U/A.
- 5) Tom moved, seconded by Wendy, that the OLC submit the Jenness Farm conservation easement for approval by the Conservation Commission at the Commission's meeting on June 6. A public announcement re the Jenness Farm/Holley property will be made on May 6. Vote U/A.
- 6) Treasurer's report:
The balance in the Conservation Fund as of 3/31/05 was \$788,408.000
- 7) Reports by Task Groups:

EASEMENT MONITORING: Committee will meet again on 5/12 to continue assigning of parcels and to make arrangements to begin monitoring.

Tom has completed the conservation easement document agreement on the Cassily property. Tom asked for members suggestions of what to call the conserved area. The consensus was that the land should be known as the Cochcecho River Conservation Area. The conservation easement stipulates that the OLC will annually monitor the land. It also stipulates that no motorized vehicles will be allowed on the property, unless the Council approves their use.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION: *Exploring Vernal Pools* with Gale Christensen was held on April 16 at Bagdan-Kirkwood. There were twelve attendees to the workshop. Dona sent a follow-up press release to the media on April 22.

A discussion ensued about future outreach events and how to publicize them. David E. suggested that we might use the Dover Main Street event in September as a vehicle to publicize our annual workshops.

GRANT WRITING: Nothing to report

TRAILS: Marcia walked the proposed Dover trail corridor with Bruce Woodruff and engineers from the CLD and the City of Dover. The committee plans to survey maps of all known trails in Dover. The committee plans to continue using GPS to chart known trails in Dover.

LAND ACTION: Committee met on 4/20 to review the *24 Steps for Protecting Land in Dover*. In an upcoming meeting TBA, Joyce will lead members in a “role-playing” training session. The committee reviewed and discussed a draft of *Acknowledgement of Confidentiality* statement for committee members to sign that would insure confidentiality during and after tenure on the Open Lands Committee. Joyce will bring the final version of this form to our June meeting for the entire committee’s approval.

PROTECTION FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENT TAX CREDIT INITIATIVE: Dona presented the resolution we will send to the Council for their approval. Wendy moved to send it to the Council. Seconded by Geoffrey. Vote U/A.

MEDIA: Dona brought to the attention of members a letter-to-the-editor writing campaign, spearheaded by SPNF to express support for LCHIP. Members may write letters to the editor on their own behalf. A letter of support may be sent jointly by Tom and Dona as the respective chairs of the OLC and the Conservation Commission.

Marcia will set up a Clean Up Day on the Cassily property, to be publicized in the media.

8) New Business:

Dona asked for comments on the Saving Special Places Conference on April 16, which was attended by a number of committee members. The general assessment was that the event was very worthwhile and that we all gained valuable information. Thanks were expressed to Steve Bird for the City’s role in paying our tuition to this event.

Dona discussed the workshops she attended on ethics and standards and practices for land trusts, presented by the Land Trust Alliance, at the Saving Special Places Conference. She presented excerpts from the *LTA Standards and Practices* manual, and suggested we study and compare them to the current practices of the OLC. Discussion of this issue will be ongoing. Dave Eisler will check if the full copy of the *LTA Standards and Practices* is available for download on the Land Trust Alliance website. Dona distributed copies of the city’s *Conflict of Interest* regulation, which had been forwarded to her by Tom.

Anne Koltus reported re her efforts to find someone to take aerial photographs for maps and documentation for the easement monitoring and stewardship folders. She said that pilot Jack Lysack may be willing to help with this. The money issue is still pending. It would require about 1 ½ hours to take the needed photographs.

9) Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.