

**Open Lands Committee
Public Meeting Minutes of October 6 , 2005
Council Chambers, Dover City Hall, 5:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Dona Layton, Marcia Colbath, Wendy Scribner, John Scruton, Chris Snow, Steve Bird, Anna Boudreau, Anne Kotlus, Joyce El Kouarti, David Price, Cheryl Niles, Geoffrey Njue

1. Motion by Tom to go into non-public session to discuss confidential land protection projects. Second by Wendy. U/A roll call.
2. Anne Kotlus motioned to accept the nonpublic minutes of September 2005 with amendments. Seconded by Anna. Passed U/A with Joyce abstaining.
3. Anne K. motioned to accept the public minutes of September 2005 with amendments. Seconded by Anna. Passed U/A with Joyce abstaining.
4. Treasurer's Report: Steve Bird reported that as of August 31 the balance of the Conservation Fund was \$1, 007,616.
5. Joyce made a motion to allow Dean Peschel to go forward with a template grant application from DES for a parcel of land in the secondary ground water protection area. Anna seconded the vote was unanimous.
6. Reports by Task Groups:

EASEMENT MONITORING

Ongoing activities to monitor easement parcels. The surveyor that did the original survey on the Sherri Towle conservation easement said he is more than willing to come out and show us where all the boundaries are. He suggests that we wait until some of the grass is not so high as it's pretty over grown out there. Anna will contact him later in the season.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Apple Harvest Day, October 1, 2005 - The theme was *The Dover Community Trail*. We had a lot of enthusiasm and interest from visitors to the OLC booth regarding the Community Trail. We accomplished a large amount of outreach regarding both the trail project and the work of the OLC. The *Dog Waste Project* shared space with OLC and had cute dog bone giveaways with a message about the need to "scoop the poop."

A short discussion took place about the need to schedule outreach and education events for 2005-2006. The outreach and education task group last met in February 2005 and, at that time, created a list of potential events. Dona went over events with the committee. There is a need to get started scheduling some of these events.

Wendy made a motion to draft an affirmative statement to explain the OLC's conservation efforts and work with landowners who voluntarily wish to conserve their properties. This was proposed as a response to a letter from Representative Newbury of

Rochester that was published in Foster's. Rep. Newbury's letter was critical of land trust organizations and conservation easements. Joyce will approach Fosters as to whether they will print an op-ed piece, written by Dona, on this subject. Joyce seconded – vote unanimous.

Anne offered a suggestion for a potential outreach workshop. Jay Odell of the Nature Conservancy is available to conduct a workshop on permeable asphalt. This is an interesting and important topic, but members wondered if it the subject is pertinent to the OLC's land conservation mission. This can be evaluated again in the future.

GRANT WRITING

Steve reported on an NH Estuaries Project grant application that might be suitable for funding certain types of professional services. For example, this funding might cover paying a professional to review or to draft conservation easements. The grant has a floating deadline, June-December. We will look into this grant application.

TRAILS

The special workshop meeting on the maintenance of Trails and Conserved Land will take place on October 20th at 5:30 in the Council Conference Room.

LAND ACTION

The OLC will present the following land conservation projects to the City Council at the Council's meeting on October 12: Winning Ways Farm (Smith / Murphy), Kageleiry/Kane, Measured Progress.

Holley Conservation Easement – Anna and Wendy have drafted an easement and are looking for a knowledgeable person to review it.

Dona informed everyone that she had spoken at the Council Workshop on the C.I.P. on October 5 and had asked the Council to include one million dollars for fiscal year 2007 for land conservation. At the workshop, Councilor Mayberry requested information on how many acres we had already protected outside of the meeting and how much we anticipated spending in 2007. In an effort to project spending and to offer more information about our projects to the Council, Dona requested that project managers send her brief, general descriptions of their projects which would not jeopardize confidentiality.

NEW BUSINESS

Joyce will head a nominating committee to recommend candidates for OLC officers for 2006. Ann, Cheryl, & Wendy will serve with Joyce on the nominating committee. Members are asked to contact Joyce by Oct. 12 if they are interested in serving.

Motion to adjourn by Joyce, seconded by Anna, vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.