

**Open Lands Committee
Public Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2005
Council Chambers, Dover City Hall, 5:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Marcia Colbath, Anne Kotlus, Dona Layton, Janice Gardner, Steve Bird, Geoffrey Njue, Cheryl Niles, Tom Fargo

1. Dona announced the resignation of Sheri Towle from the Open Lands Committee.
2. Treasurer's Report: Steve Bird reported that as of October 31 the balance of the Conservation Fund is \$1,014,421, of which \$50,000 is not committed to outstanding projects.
3. Reports by Task Groups

EASEMENT MONITORING

The team completed monitoring the Bagdon / Kirkwood property. Dave Price will send an annual report to the state.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Dona reported on the outreach and education task group meeting of November 28. The task group discussed planning a workshop on the dollars and cents of land conservation. The event would be a panel discussion to be held in January. The task group will hold a workshop on migratory birds in May 2006 with Darrell Covell from the UNH Cooperative Extension. There was also a discussion about holding a workshop on water resources and water protection in Dover.

GRANT WRITING

Tom has received a request for projects from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) grant. CELCP is interested in partnering with municipal groups to fund smaller projects. The OLC discussed several projects in Dover that might be suitable for 2007 funding possibilities. Project identification must be submitted within a week.

Re: the Tuttle Farm – The Department of Transportation (DOT) wants to protect 70 acres in Dover to mitigate the Newington/Dover bridge project. The DOT could decide to protect portions of the Tuttle Farm and/or other identified parcels in Dover. DOT is sending their consultant to walk the Tuttle Farm to assess its ecological value. The tidal section of Varney Brook, and other parts that fall under tidal water area, could qualify the Tuttle Farm for DOT protection.

LCHIP has also expressed interest in funding the Tuttle Farm project.

The City Council will vote on the resolution to conserve the Tuttle Farm on December 14. All of the city councilors have agreed to sponsor the resolution.

Steve raised for discussion the topic of the city including funding for the Conservation Fund each year to replace bonding money for land conservation, which would avoid the city having to pay interest on the municipal bonds.

TRAILS

Marcia reported that the planning of the Community Trail is moving right along. The trail group, consisting of members of the community, has been meeting each Monday evening with City Planner Bruce Woodruff. The group will discuss the portion of the trail from the train station to Central Ave when it meets again on 1/12/2006 and review for public presentation on 1/17/2006. CLD is preparing a summary report. Tom will write a draft of a cover letter for the report.

LAND ACTION

No news.

NEW BUSINESS

Re: the Measured Progress land: Doug Steele will prepare the appropriate signage for the trail. It is necessary to meet with Liberty Mutual to discuss plans for the company's portion of the river trail.

The City Council will vote on the CIP for 2007 on December 7. The CIP includes a bond of \$1,000,000 for land conservation.

Anne moved, second by Cheryl, to move into non-public session to discuss confidential land protection projects. Passed u/a.

Steve moved to exit from non-public session and to return to the public meeting. Seconded by Tom. Passed u/a.

Anne moved that we accept both public and non-public minutes, as amended, of November 2005. Seconded by Cheryl. Passed u/a.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.