



**City of
Dover**

OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

MEETING TYPE:	REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MEETING LOCATION:	CITY HALL, CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, DOVER, NH 03820
MEETING DATE:	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009
MEETING TIME:	5:30 PM

Present: Chair-Dona Layton, Vice Chair-David Price, Steve Bird, Marcia Gasses, Barbara Lehocky, Geoffrey Njue, Cheryl Niles, Larry Pilla, Ann Reid, John Scruton.

1. Approval of November , 2009 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Layton, 2nd by Lehocky, passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report

Bird reported that as of November 20, 2009 there is \$621,289.89 in the Conservation Fund. This is less than last month's total and he mentioned that the amount varies based on when bills come in and are posted.

3. Public Projects

The Chair mentioned that the OLC was invited to attend a Public Hearing of the Conservation Commission on December 7, 2009 regarding the use of Conservation Fund monies to purchase two parcels of land totaling 27.96 acres. The parcels are located on Back Road. The cooperative purchase by the City and The Nature Conservancy would be purchased for conservation purposes.

Layton requested a motion to support the proposal, 2nd by Price, passed with unanimous approval.

4. Reports by Task Groups

A. Easement Monitoring

Price announced that he will be moving out of Dover and will therefore have to resign as an official member of the OLC. Consequently, until he leaves he will be writing up the unfinished reports.

B. Outreach and Education

Discussion on new outreach efforts stemmed from the Open Lands Committee's successful showing at the City's Apple Harvest Days, and a desire to enhance the committee's efforts in the coming year. It was decided that piggy backing on events such as the Sustainability Fair, or at the weekly organic market at the Herbal Path in the summer would be a means to get larger turnouts. For example, workshops and/or displays on various topics could be developed and used at these events.

Given the need to husband our volunteer resources it was decided that a "focused effort" was needed this year to try out the ideas. To that end, Njue and Lehocky will get together and develop a display on local efforts to eradicate non-native invasive species of plants and harmful beetles. The Strafford County Conservation Department will be contacted to seek their approval to schedule a morning workshop and display the new information boards at their annual plant sale. Results will be reviewed after the event to evaluate the effort and enhance outreach planning for next year.



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Motion was made to approve going forward with the focused effort by Niles, and 2nd by Gasses. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Grant Writing

Bird announced that we have received official word that our PREP grant proposal was approved. Once the official letter is received he will begin the process to solicit proposals from consultants interested in working on the project.

D. Trails

E. Website Subcommittee

Lehocky and Pilla, our newest committee member will work together on organizing the website beginning in January.

5. New Business

A. Trail Access

Lehocky mentioned that it would be really helpful if a change were made to the Liberty Mutual/Measured Progress Community Trail head. It is very difficult to climb over the granite rock on the left or to squeeze through past the tree on the right of the opening on Watson Road. Gasses agreed to contact Measured Progress to see if they could move the stone to improve access. The new opening will not be large enough to allow auto or off road vehicles to gain entrance.

B. Election of Officers

Layton announced that the new slate of officers needed to be elected. She presented the following: Dona Layton- Chair for one more year, Barbara Lehocky-Vice Chair, Steve Bird-Treasurer, Secretary will rotate.

The slate was approved unanimously with the motion being made by Reid and 2nd by Njue.

To seek new committee members, it was suggested that the committee follow up on the email addresses that were collected from possible volunteers at the City's Apple Harvest Days.

6. Enter Non-Public Session—Report on the Status of Individual Lands Protection Efforts/Transactions per RSA 91-A:3

Reid motioned to enter into nonpublic session to discuss the status of individual land protection efforts/projects per RSA 91-A:3. Second by Gasses. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to come out of Non-Public session and seal the minutes made by Gasses and 2nd by Niles.

7. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Bird and 2nd by Gasses. Motion passed unanimously.