



CITY OF DOVER

OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Thursday, January 13, 2011**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

Members Present: Barbara Lehocky (Chair), Steve Bird, Anna Boudreau, Marcia Gasses, John Scruton, Cheryl Niles, and Anne Kotlus

1. **Election of Officers:** Gasses made a motion to nominate Lehocky as Chair of the OLC, Boudreau as Vice Chair, Bird as Treasurer and Niles as Secretary. Kotlus seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous
2. **Approval of November minutes:** Motion made by Gasses to approve the Nov. 17, 2010 minutes with the following correction: Under 4B - Correct the spelling of Kotlus, seconded by Niles. Vote: Unanimous
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Bird reported that as of 12/31/2010 the conservation fund balance is \$787,092.44, with \$201, 478 of that as Accounts Receivable.
4. **Public Projects:** None at this time.
5. **Report by Task Groups**
 - A. **Monitoring:** Bird stated that the Frazer and Williams's easements were monitored by Niles, Bird and Lehocky. Holly Green of NH DES also accompanied the group on the monitoring visit. Reports will be written and submitted to DES.
 - B. **Outreach and Education:** Scruton mentioned that a workshop was coming up in late January in Concord.
 - C. **Grant Writing:**
 - i. The Coastal program has some funding, and NRCS grants are available: WRP and FRPP. We should apply for FRPP grants even though the program has been difficult to work through in the past so the City has been cautious to jump into another FRPP project in recent years.
 - ii. Boudreau gave an update on what Suzanne Brown of the NH Institute of Agriculture and Forestry is hoping to accomplish on Tuttle's farm. The hope is to raise funds and write a grant thru NRCS/USDA for a "grow new farmers" program that might help ensure that Tuttle's Farm goes the way of a farming/non-profit and for profit collaborative. Funds are needed now in order to do all the due diligence, etc...to the tune of about \$100,000. The committee discussed the advisability of using the Conservation fund towards that endeavor. The consensus was that perhaps the conservation fund would not be the best source as the land is already conserved. Boudreau agreed to call Brown to see if she would give the presentation that she has put together on the proposal.



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iii. Bird gave an update on the PREP grant that is funding the work to create a catalogue of all the various conservation lands throughout the city and clarifying the levels of protection, ownership, allowed uses, etc... Eventually we would like to see it posted on-line. Originally due by 12/31/10, we got an extension in order to give Chris Kane more time to organize it in some orderly fashion. This has encompassed a lot of work on the consultant's part. Gasses and Boudreau also reviewed the list to see if there were any discrepancies or corrections they could point out. Many of these parcels are still not submitted to GRANIT and that still has to happen. This will be an evolving document as new easements or acquisitions get added, more information is clarified, etc..

D. The Farm and Forest Expo will be held the weekend of 2/4 and 2/5. Great workshops, booths and information. At the Radisson in Manchester.

E. **Trails:** Next meeting is 1/18 at 6 PM.

6. New Business:

A. Boudreau of the SRC reviewed "What is a conservation Easement" handout.

B. Planning Board is working on updating certain chapters of the Master plan, looking for couple volunteers from the OLC, preferably someone who was there in the beginning and someone new. The Conservation Chapter has not been updated since 2000. Bill McCann is representing the Conservation Commission. The Steering committee is to act as a sounding board and make recommendations to the PB. Kotlus and Lehocky volunteered their services. Bird will let us know when the meetings are set for but they will likely only be about once a month for about 6-8 months or until the work is completed.

C. Scruton mentioned we should have a goal to have a certain amount of land in Dover set aside for agricultural use, natural resources and water protection, etc... similar to what the Forest Society suggests. Each community is different, and some folks still think we need more, especially as it relates to water supply protection. Gasses said she thinks we are actually close to 25% now.

7. Non-Public Meeting

Gasses made a motion to enter into non-public session for report on the status of individual land protection efforts/transactions per RSA 91-A:3. Niles seconded the motion and a roll call vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Bird made a motion to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes. Lehocky seconded. Vote: Unanimous Approval.

8. Adjournment

Bird motioned to adjourn the meeting. Scruton seconded. Vote: Unanimous