



CITY OF DOVER

OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Thursday, March 10, 2011**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

Members Present: Barbara Lehocky (Chair), Steve Bird, Anna Boudreau, Anne Kotlus, Cheryl Niles, Ann Reid, John Scruton.

Non-members Present: Rick Ellsmore, State Conservationist; Kevin McEneaney, President, Strafford River Conservancy

- 1. Approval of January minutes:** Motion to accept made by Boudreau, seconded by Kotlus. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** The balance as of 2/28 is \$637,617. Another \$51,776 is receivable that have not yet been collected.
- 3. Guest Speaker:** Rick Ellsmore, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service/USDA, brought welcome news that there is money available through two programs that could help Dover fund conservation easements.

- The Federal Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program provides matching funds to help buy development rights to keep productive farm and ranchlands in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs the USDA partners with State, tribal or local governments and non-profits to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50% of the fair market easement value of the conservation easement. Currently, there is \$2.5 million in this fund with applications due July 1st.
- The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program to restore and protect wetlands in public or private ownership. It is an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to enhance and restore wetlands to their original hydrology, functions and values, natural vegetation and natural geography. Restoration activities would be done by the NRCS. There is a lot of competition for this program already. \$1.8 million is currently available. For this program wetlands parcels are defined as having less than 60% forest.

4. Public Projects: None at this time.

5. Report by Task Groups

A. Monitoring: Dave Price still hasn't provided us with copies of previous monitoring lists. Boudreau will update the list and email it to Lehocky and Niles.

B. Outreach and Education: The Strafford County Conservation District 2011 Annual Plant Sale will be held April 30-31. OLC will participate as we did last year.

SRC will hold a Conservation Options Workshop at the Dover Public Library on Monday, April 11, at 6:30.

The "Saving Open Spaces" Conference will be held April 19, in Sutton. Anyone who wants to go and have the city pay the fees should let Bird know ASAP.



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The Center for Wildlife is having its 7th Annual Breakfast Fundraiser on Tuesday, April 26 at the Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel. Let Reid know if you want to go.

C. Grant Writing: None at this time.

D. Trails: A winter tree identification walk on the Dover Community Trail will be held on Saturday, March 12. Meet at Beckwith Park/Hillside Ave. at 10 a.m.

6. New Business: The Cassily Community Garden license is up for renewal by the City Council. Bird provided the committee with an update and asked if they would support the renewal. Reid made a motion to have the OLC endorse the renewal of the license agreement for the Cassily Community Garden. Motion seconded by Boudreau. Vote: Unanimous.

7. Non-Public Meeting

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

Niles motioned to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes. Boudreau seconded. Vote: Unanimous Approval.

8. Adjournment

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

Minutes taken by Barbara Lehocky.