

**CITY OF DOVER**

## OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall  
Meeting Date: **Thursday, January 15, 2015**  
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Anna Boudreau, Malone Cloitre, Kristen Murphy, Brenda Davidson, Ann Reid, Isaac Epstein, and Anne Kotlus (arrived at 5:50)

**Staff Present:** Steve Bird

**Others Present:** None

Meeting called to order by Boudreau at 5:35 pm.

### 1. Citizens Forum:

- A. John Scruton has been in the hospital with some health problems and is recovering at Dover Rehab. Boudreau saw him on Christmas Eve but has not been able to reach him, recently by phone. She will contact Dover Rehab to see if has been released.
  - B. Bird received a letter from Southeast Land Trust of NH. They wanted to notify us of their new status as the merger between the Strafford Rivers Conservancy and the SELTNH is now complete. They provided the name of new Stewardship manager, Deborah Goard.
  - C. Boudreau indicated that we need to elect a new Secretary as Reid has indicated she is not certain she can continue in that capacity. Epstein offered to serve as new secretary. Reid made a motion to elect Epstein as the new Secretary, Murphy made a second. Unanimous approval. Epstein is new secretary.
2. **Approval of November 20, 2014 minutes:** There was some discussion about the correct verbiage regarding the wire that was found across a trail on a property when monitoring. Cloitre motion to approve minutes as edited, seconded by Epstein. Vote: Unanimous.

### 3. Treasurer's Report:

Bird reported that as of the end of 2014 the Conservation Fund is \$601,655.06 with receivables of \$35,039.34. These figures include purchase price and closing costs for Harry Property.

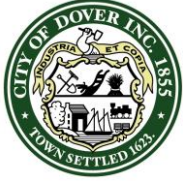
### 4. Public Projects:

Bird reported that we were hoping to close today, but her bank has not agreed to subordinate mortgage. They required a new appraisal of the property to confirm that the value of the development rights do not exceed her mortgage. Purchase and Sale agreement ended 12/14 and she agreed to an extension until today. Another extension was provided today, which is good until next Friday, 1/23. Everything is ready on our end: deed signed, check cut. We're just awaiting her bank's approval so the Chair suggested that it's really the City providing the landowner with an extension, not the other way around. Hopefully we will close next week.

### 5. Report by Task Groups

#### A. *Easement Monitoring:*

Davidson reported that three properties were monitored, but stopped before Christmas. Goldberg Park, which is part of the Wyndbrook easement at Tolend and Columbus, Vermette, and SMPJ



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(Fitzpatrick) off Parson's Lane. There was a dilapidated treehouse at the back of one of the lots on Goldberg and Bird will send a letter.

Chair noted that we really should have a baseline report for every easement.

SMPJ – Parsons Ave. Very interesting, there is a cell tower. Sites plotted by Kane report. Single family house lot. House is near Parsons, conserved part is by the highway. Lots of wetlands.

Vermette – Submitted a forestry plan which was approved by conservation commission. The timber harvest has been completed.

Chair indicated that the Parks-Paolini easement should be monitored. Davidson asked why this new one came up when there are older ones that have yet to be monitored. Because we want to start doing monitoring more often and not let the new easements get as far behind as the older ones.

The George Day easement, of off Sixth St should be monitored soon. Mr. Day passed away last year, his daughter is now the new owner. Davidson recruited a few volunteers for monitoring.

Bird followed up on Bagdon. Good conversation with city attorney, advised to get a hold of Bagdon and to be sure he removes an old wire that was found while monitoring. The landowner indicated that there had once been a sign hanging on the wire and subsequently did remove the wire, per an email to Bird, who noted the removal in the monitoring report to the State.

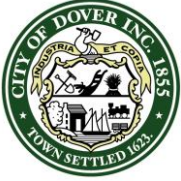
### **B. *Outreach and Education:***

Cloitre brought up shoreline regulations for the first 250 feet in Dover. She discovered was that the only time you receive the regulations is if there is new construction. Most people ignore regulations. Her battle is not with realtors, but she saw several TruGreen trucks "trolling" her neighborhood. She suggested the OLC present a workshop on the subject with Steve Miller as the speaker. Cloitre offered to plan this educational meeting. Maybe at the end of March, before people start to fertilize. The committee was in agreement.

NH DES has a lot of information on their website, including the "Homeowners' Guide to Shoreline Protection" but until there is new construction, people won't get regulations.

The number of landowners who this would affect is in the hundreds, but fifty participants would be great. Letter should include easy access to regulatory information. Committee agreed to allow Cloitre to run with it. Cost of mailing may be an issue. We should put together an estimated budget.

Murphy suggested a "Full Moon snowshoe walk" on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> on the community trail. She will check the time of sunset and contact Bryant Hardwick from the Trails Committee to possibly serve as a speaker while on the walk. Murphy would like to provide hot chocolate at the end of the walk. She will work out the details over next few weeks. Discussion resulted in agreement



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to hold the event on Friday, 2/6 with a Saturday 2/7 as the backup date. Bird will contact the police for permission to use the trails after dark. One question that remains is if the trail is plowed.

### **C. Trails:**

Hardwick was not present but Chair noted that he informed her today that the Recreation Department may phase out the trails committee and bring it under the Recreation Advisory Committee. He is okay with this as he was sort of filling in as the chair and didn't feel qualified to lead the Trails Committee.

### **6. New Business:**

#### **A. Discussion of Criteria Rating Form**

Criteria ranking will go back on the agenda once we have a larger sample of projects to use. Bird suggested using the old form and then using the data in the new assessment. Chair volunteered to work with Murphy within the next 60 days.

### **7. Non-Public Meeting**

Reid moved to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3-II (d). Cloitre seconded and roll call vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Cloitre motioned to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes because divulgence would render the proposed action ineffective. Davidson seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

### **8. Adjournment**

Kotlus motioned to adjourn at 6:27. Seconded by Cloitre. Vote: Unanimous

Minutes taken by Isaac Epstein.