



CITY OF DOVER

OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 2nd Floor City Council Conference Room, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Thursday, December 10, 2015**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

Members Present: Anna Boudreau (Chair), Malone Cloitre (Vice Chair), Kristen Murphy, Isaac Epstein, Cora Quisumbing-King, Bob Hall, Anne Kotlus, Brenda Davidson and Bob Lucier

Staff Present: Steve Bird

Others Present: None

Meeting was called to order at 5:31.

1. Discussion on Project Criteria Revisions:

Boudreau started the meeting with a conversation about the OLC Criteria Ranking form. This is the third update of the form that the OLC has used.

Murphy said that we should all click through the links. She suggested that we use the new criteria ranking sheet in the field before we formally adopt the new ranking sheet. Some questions to consider: public access: a positive or a liability?

Quisumbing-King suggested that we run through the document cell by cell. Last meeting we talked more generally. Access to existing conservation lands: probably a 2 or a 0. Little ground for in between. We decided we should probably define "abuts" more specifically. A potential or even a pending projects doesn't count, but we can still take account of that in the notes.

Quisumbing-King asked about what regional planning means: maybe regional data and collection?

Relationship to Coastal Watershed Plan: There are grants available if the property is in a core focus area. Can get funding from moose plates. This is again a yes or no issue. Bird noted there are differences between Supported Landscape and CFA. Maybe a 2 could be for supported landscape? The committee agreed. This is something that we would look up in the office before the on-site assessment. Bird suggested we allow some leeway if a property is partially in a CFA or a supported landscape. Quisumbing-King suggested that we split the question and Murphy suggested we allow for some flexibility. Hall suggested if there is any CFA, it should be a 3, supported land a 2. Boudreau talked about mapping technology that she uses professionally that precisely quantify these values. We agreed to continue a 3-2-0 ranking score and test in the field.

Ground Water Protection. Relatively new in Land Conservation circles. Bird suggested that we use existing maps that Dover already uses.

Murphy asked if the maps overlay with NHDES maps. Bird will look into it. If 3 and 4 are the same we will combine the category.

Surface Protection: This should be a 3-2-0 category. Bird suggested that we explicitly name the 4th order streams.

Species of Concern. Just use the NHFG Wildlife Action Plan. Murphy suggested we use a 3-2-0 ranking. All agreed.

Agricultural Soil Quality: use of the new GRANIT Mapper

Field Review

Historic/cultural site: L-CHIP doesn't consider stone walls as a feature, which is why we took it off. Change to a 3-2-0

Public Access: The Chair thinks this is important for some properties, but not all. Traditionally we haven't mandated this in the deed. But if they feel good about it, we should give them a higher score. Change to a 3-2-0.



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Scenic Viewshed: we changed this to a 3-0 ranking.

Agricultural Features: again, a yes or no question. Fields used for farming counts as agricultural use. Active farms and fields are rare, which is why there is not a distinction between active and non-active agricultural land.

Other: we agreed to keep an open “other” section to give us some leeway. We agreed to take out “old growth forest.” Boudreau will look into this.

Murphy had to leave at 6:13. The Committee thanked her for her work on the rating sheet.

Size of Project: We don’t necessarily rank parcels based on size, and there are few parcels larger than 100 acres. We decided to change 3 to greater than 75. 25-74 is 2, less than 25 is 1.

Existing Development Threat: Boudreau noted that some properties with limited development potential are the best to conserve.

Stewardship/Monitoring: We decided to move it up to a 3-2-0 scale. We are not comfortable with “acceptable” – maybe “moderately difficult.”

Reserved Rights: This comes out of a conversation with the landowner. Make it a 3-2-0 scale.

Forest Management Plan: Having a plan shows some preexisting knowledge of land conservation issues. A plan shows people value the trees. Boudreau is uncomfortable making a judgment about valuable timber. We decided to make this a 3-0 ranking. A 3 has a forest management plan, a 0 has no forest management plan. Hall raised some objections about not ranking forested elsewhere. Many on the committee felt that forest cover could be ranked in other categories. Hall called for a separate forest category. Boudreau says other categories include this, and we agreed to amend the other category.

Known Leverage – we agreed with these categories

Financial Considerations. We decided to change this to a 3-2-0 category

Likelihood of success: Boudreau pointed out that if a property scored a zero, we would not accept the project. 3-2-0.

Boudreau will work to put forests back into a category.

Quisumbing-King pointed out that as of now, the theoretical top score is 60. What does that mean? Hall: This is for us to compare different properties. Previously we took points away for demerits. We won’t know until we test this on a few properties. Once we figure it out, we should figure out a high-medium-low ranking category and find out the sweet spot.

2. Citizens Forum: None

3. Approval of minutes.

Boudreau: Asked we revise minutes to include names and offices of officers.

Quisumbing-King moved to approve the November 19, 2015 minutes as corrected, Kotlus seconded. All approved



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4. Treasurer's Report

Bird reported that as of 11/30/15, the fund balance is \$611,676.19. Receivables: \$96,408.48.

5. Public Projects

No pending public projects at this time.

6. Reports by task groups

A. Easement Monitoring

Davidson contacted the Trails Committee to talk about encampment on Cassily Trail. Trails will create a "Clean-up Crew" and plan to clean for next year.

Next Tuesday we will monitor Waldron Falls, right off of Watson Road, and the second property is Winning Ways Stable next to the Bagdon property. Tuesday at 10, we will meet in library parking lot. Cloitre went to the Bagdon property to post the letter. Sam Bagdon also posted copies of the letter, where a tree was cut down and where there was a structure. There were more trees tagged. They went down to the structure and found recent signs of use. He has contacted the police and will walk his property more often.

Davidson passed out an easement monitoring reporting sheet. The purpose is to have a more structured and fast way to discuss potential problems.

Boudreau had a presentation about our monitoring of three properties. We have done 18 so far this year, out of 40. There are some easements that we are required to monitor, but we should be ideally monitoring every easement annually. We have finished everything for the year that we absolutely need to do.

B. Outreach and Education

Murphy and Cloitre were talking about a moonlight snowshoe walk sometime in February.

C. Trails

No update from the trails committee.

7. New Business.

Bird passed out a handout for the NH Coastal Risks conference on December 17th. Boudreau will forward information to the committee.

Boudreau attended a workshop last week for realtors in Moultonborough on land conservation. We were thinking of doing similar as the shoreline protection effort that we did last spring. The Strafford County board of realtors would like a similar seacoast workshop.

8. Enter non-public session – To report on the status of individual land protection efforts/transactions per RSA 91-A:3 Epstein made the motion and Cloitre seconded. Roll call vote: Unanimous

At 7:27 we came out of nonpublic session and the chair adjourned the meeting.