



CITY OF DOVER

OPEN LANDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, 288 Central Ave., City Hall
Meeting Date: **Thursday, May 17, 2018**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

Members Present: Malone Cloitre, Grant Killian, Nicholas Kline, Anne Kotlus, Kristen Murphy (Vice Chair), Nancy O'Connor, Ann S. Reid, Nick Shonka

Staff Present: Steve Bird

1. Roll Call Attendance

Murphy (Vice Chair) called meeting to order at 5:32 and conducted a roll call and confirmed a quorum. Two visitors were in attendance, Nabia Fortier and Bruce Batchelder. It was noted that David Hurlburt had stepped down from his position on the OLC.

2. Citizens Forum

Cloitre shared that, through her Master Gardener program, interest in a community garden is renewed and the Master Gardening Association may support the effort; Summer 2019 would be the earliest funding is available, but the foundation for a program can begin now. Reid noted there are locals who go to Rollinsford to do community gardening and confirmed interest. Discussed the best location for a community garden.

O'Connor is starting a gardening "swap group" to share information about local gardening practices. One can contact O'Connor for more details.

3. Approval of minutes

Kline motioned to approve the minutes from April. O'Connor seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

4. Treasurer's Report

Bird reported the balance as of April 30th, 2018 of the conservation fund was \$186,616.71 with the receivables at \$5,060.53.

5. Public Projects

Bird explained that the Dot Mason donation has finalized and the deed recorded. It's roughly 4 acres off Spruce Lane Extension. Kline asked if a "baseline survey" would be in order; Bird answered that grant funding is being considered, but he may do the work himself if there isn't a grant as the property is small. Murphy inquired if a press release would share this news and Bird agreed to look into it.

6. Reports By Task Group

a. Easement Monitoring

- Kline and Shonka monitored two properties (Willows and Stern) and found the practice of *people new to a property completing the monitoring* to be fairly straight-forward, considering they are prepared with the right documents, and they feel it's an acceptable path forward. Ticks were in abundance.
- Cloitre and Shonka explained they had monitored another two properties (Stern [2], Forbes) and confirmed it went well in spite of them both being new to the location.
- O'Connor and Shonka monitored Day-Provencher off Sixth St. (renamed to Day-Truax now with a new owner) and had a tough time finding all the boundary markers, but confirmed being at the property for the first time while monitoring it wasn't a significant obstacle to overcome.
- A few conclusions based on this monitoring work: bring flagging tape to note where markers are located for posterity (a role of tape may be added to the supplies in the Dover office); bring a bag for collecting trash; it's helpful to have a GPS track of the route; clipboards make one look official.



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- Kline expressed some confusion over which monitoring form to use (PDF or Word? Which version? Shared OLC drive copy or something else?). Bird explained that he has Word versions of every easement and can send them out upon request.
- Bird explained that SELT sent a letter to remind us about the importance of monitoring properties in Dover.
- Murphy reviewed the list of properties to monitor on the master list and made some suggestions for where to focus for the next month or two.
- Bird pointed out that he and Boudreau had met the new owners of the *former* Stern House lot and they were very conservation-minded.
- Consensus was that the emphasis on *monitoring* for the Spring has been successful and that the June meeting would not be necessary. The group would reconvene in July with Fall initiatives a likely topic (Apple Harvest Festival, paddling outing on the Cochecho). Skipping the monthly meeting in June would allow more time for monitoring work to continue.

b. Outreach & Education

- Murphy pointed out that May 27th is the bird walk on the Don Black trail.
- Cloitre updated plans to coordinate a paddling trip on the Cochecho with September 16th as the target date, 3-5 PM. She's considering including a tidal river ecology talk in concert with the paddle.
- Murphy asked the OLC for input on material for the Facebook page for the committee; photos or other engaging material would be particularly welcome.

c. Trails

- Bird summarized that the Trails Committee had nothing new to report for this month.

7. New Business

Nothing new to report

8. Old Business

Nothing new to report

9. Enter Non-public Session

At 6:46, Kotlus motioned to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II(d), to report on the status of individual land protection efforts and transactions. Malone seconded. On roll call vote, all approved.

Returned to public session at 6:53 PM.

Kline made a motion to seal the non-public minutes per RSA 91-A, III, because divulgence would render the proposed action ineffective. Kotlus seconded. All approved.

Murphy declared the meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.