



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, September 20, 2018**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

Members Present: Anna Boudreau (Chair), Anne Kotlus, Kristen Murphy (Vice Chair), Nancy O'Connor, Bruce Batchelder, Nabia Fortier

Staff Present: Steve Bird

1. Roll Call Attendance

Boudreau called meeting to order at 5:35 and conducted a roll call and confirmed a quorum.

2. Citizens Forum

- The NH Association of Conservation Commissions has announced their annual conference it will take place on November 3rd and is very valuable if anybody can attend
- Saving Special Places Conference-Anna will follow up with an e-mail regarding these events
- There is a Protecting Drinking Water Supply lands workshop at Strafford Regional Planning Commission on September 24th hosted by SRPC and DES

3. Approval of minutes

O'Connor motioned to approve the minutes from July 19, 2018 with a couple of minor changes. Fortier seconded. Vote: All in favor

4. Treasurer's Report

Bird reported that the balance, as of 8.31.18, is \$162,653.83 with a receivables amount of \$13,472.50. He continued to a new ordinance that the planning board has recently changed regarding transfer of development rights in residential development. As a result, this should increase the revenue coming in. In the meantime, Boudreau and Bird initiated a discussion regarding the possibility of having a line item in the CIP for conservation so that there would be a steadier stream of revenue. The Planning Department have suggested that this ordinance change will result in a lot more money coming in. It will be revisited after a few years to see if the changes brought about do in fact increase the revenue.

5. Public Projects

There is a press release forthcoming from Kotlus, re the Mason Easement. Awaiting a signature from Brian Stern on baseline documentation report.

6. Reports By Task Group

a. Easement Monitoring

Bird listed the most pressing easements to monitor and it was agreed by all that as much monitoring as possible should be completed over next few weeks. Follow up e-mails will be sent to organize monitoring visits. It was noted that ticks have not been so bad in recent weeks.

b. Outreach & Education

Apple Harvest Day – A new map has been generated by a subcommittee. Bird displayed it for everyone to see. It is to point out all conserved lands in Dover and also express the level of public access to each. A couple of brief suggestions/feedback were given at the meeting but it was agreed that Bird would send out a PDF of the map to the group to allow people to look at it further and give feedback. Feedback can be given to Murphy. Although the OLC is not having its own booth this year at AHD, there is still need for volunteers to help out manning the Planning Department booth. Bird will send a doodle poll dealing with volunteering slots.



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Cochecho River Kayak Trip- The kayak tour on the Cochecho went really well. There were 34 people who came. It was beautiful weather and people used the new kayak launch to access the water and loved it. It seems like the Facebook post and the Dover download were the most effective advertising tools. They did not get all the way up to Fresh Creek, they stopped at marshland before that. It was very interesting to see conservation lands from that perspective and was a great success. Should be run again.

Generally, Murphy needs some help with the outreach and education responsibility of OLC. Looking for someone to work with her or take over entirely.

c. Trails

Trails Committee had nothing new to report for this month.

7. New Business

Climate Adaptation Chapter from City. OLC is responsible for certain implementation steps so it is something we should address. Bird handed out the chapter and asked members to review and at a later meeting we will discuss tasks for OLC to do to comply with the strategy. Possible re-structuring or re-working of conservation evaluation to reflect climate adaptation strategies.

The City Manager approached Planning Department to discuss the concept of a City Forest. Dover has never had one and perhaps it is a good idea to do an inventory of forested lands and also to hire a forester to create a possible management plan, cut some trees. Either the Conservation Commission or the OLC could take it on as a project? All agreed that it sounded like a good project and that it would be nice to have input on what happens. Perhaps the Conservation Commission would take lead on the project and OLC could have a chance to contribute.

8. Old Business

None

9. Enter Non-public Session

Murphy 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. Kotlus seconded. On roll call vote, all approved.

Returned to public session.

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

10. Next Meeting November 15th.

Boudreau declared the meeting adjourned.