

Open Space Committee notes, 3-8-2006 approved 5-3-06

Attendees

Anne Madden (chair)

Don Bourquard

Patricia Reeser

Mike Mokrzycki

Topics:

- Minutes of Jan. 4 meeting and notes on Feb. 8 meeting
- Community Preservation Act
- Workforce Housing Trust Forum
- Craven subdivision, 117 Main St.
- Conservation Commission and OSRD CRs
- Berkenbush proposal
- Upcoming meetings

Past meeting minutes

The committee unanimously approved minutes of Jan. 4 meeting and notes on the Feb. 8 discussion.

Community Preservation Act

Motion by Patricia Reeser/second by Don Bourquard: To publicly support passage of the Community Preservation Act on the ballot this spring. Approved unanimously.

Workforce Housing Trust Forum

Patricia noted that on March 23 at 7 p.m. in the Annex there will be a Workforce Housing Trust forum that will , among other things, talk about affordable housing projects designed specifically to include open space preservation.

Craven subdivision, 117 Main St.

Motion by Annie Madden/second by Patricia Reeser: That the Open Space Committee would support obtaining an easement for a trail from Main Street through the Craven property at 117 Main St. to the town-owned land at Brake Hill. Approved unanimously.

Conservation Commission and OSRD CRs

Don reported on a discussion at the Conservation Commission regarding conservation restrictions, in light of ConCom being asked to approve the CR for the Whitegate subdivision under the Open Space Resource Development bylaw. Don said “extracted” CRs are required by the Planning Board as part of OSRD negotiations with a developer and thus (as in the case of Whitegate, which is alongside/under power lines) the requirements for a CR are not as stringent as for voluntary CRs. Don said the ConCom understands it needs better communication with the Planning Board in cases of OSRD-related CRs.

Berkenbush proposal

The committee reviewed the status of the proposal for the Berkenbush property along the Merrimack River. Annie said under the current plan the town would pay the Berkenbush family \$200,000 for development rights and would develop a road into the property

(estimated cost \$40,000-50,000), which would be used for public access (including to river) and trails, with parking. The family is working to develop a conservation restriction; unclear who would hold the CR. The family is trying to get this done in time for a Town Meeting vote on April 24. Annie said it would be important to see the details of the CR before the OSC can weigh in on it.

Upcoming meetings

Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.