

Minutes of the Open Space Committee

September 21, 2011

Present: Barry Lacroix, Don Bourquard, Jean Lambert, Jennifer Germain, Steve Greason, Patricia Reeser

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Minutes of June 22, 2011 and August 31 were approved as written.

There was an update from Barry on the **Town Land Working Committee's progress** in making recommendations to the Selectmen on properties that might be deemed "surplus."

Deb Hamilton made a short presentation supporting the **application of All Saints Episcopal Church for a portion of CPA funds** to be used for renovations to the church (built 1912) and fellowship hall (built 1907) from CPA funds earmarked for historic preservation. Deb said that the church parking lot and hall are available to the community and could be useful especially in view of the discussions currently being held with the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE or Society) relating to the preservation of and granting public access to the considerable land holdings of the Society directly across the street from the church.

Jamie Coates of SSJE presented an overview of the **long term plans being contemplated for the Emery House property**. The property was a 1640 land grant to the Emery family and was gifted by the Emery sisters to the SSJE in 1954. It is currently used as a retreat for the Society although a portion of the property is subject to an easement for the benefit of the Town for water purposes. The Society is investigating selling a conservation easement on the property in order to establish an endowment. The Society is in discussions with Trustees of Reservations, Essex County Greenbelt and the Audubon Society about its visions for the entire site.

There was **discussion of the Park and Rec. article for FTM to purchase the Daley property** for 1.1 million. Funds to be obtained from CPA funds: \$100,000 Open Space funds, \$100,000 unrestricted funds and that balance to be bonded using CPA revenues to pay the \$86,000/yr debt service.

There was a **discussion of Fall Trail Day** October 15 and division of duties. Jean's flyer advertising the event was approved for distribution. The Brake Hill Trail Map was fine tuned during the discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Reeser