

Open Space Minutes – September 20, 2007

Attendees

Mike Mokrzycki
Don Bourquard

Patricia Reeser
Mickey Culver

Anne Madden
Janet Thibau

Topics covered

- Approve minutes
- Indian Hill update
- Town-owned parcel prioritization
- Management and stewardship
- Committee organization
- Other business
- Next meeting – Oct. 10

Approve minutes

The committee approved minutes for 5/9, 6/3 and 8/11 (Mickey abstained – he wasn't present at the meetings)

Indian Hill update

- Subcommittee met last week and are working on a purchase and sale agreement
- Fincom voted to support acquisition with or without self help grant
- Dave Kapturowski will present the motion at Town meeting, Oct. 22
- There will be a site walk Oct. 14, 12 - 2 (rain date Oct. 20) invitations will be sent to all residents
- A parking lot plan is being finalized

The OSC voted unanimously to recommend that Town Meeting spend up to \$398,000 to purchase a conservation restriction for lot 2-c on plan by Donahue and Parkhurst. The parcel contains 21.157 acres. OSC recommends that the parcel be purchased with or without grant funds.

Next steps: Mike will notify BOS, Tracey and Dave K about our vote via e-mail. Anne to contact Deb Hamilton to see if she'd write a letter to the editor in support of land purchase.

Town-owned parcel prioritization

- BOS met a few weeks ago regarding town owned parcel prioritization. The Newburyport news published an article about the meeting and parts of the article were inaccurate.
- To clarify, based on a conversation Mike had with John McGrath: the BOS wants to balance preserving key parcels and analyze existing town owned parcels to identify which of these are suitable for long term protection and which, if any should be considered for public sale.
- We are concerned that the article made it appear that we hadn't responded to the BOS' request for a list of parcels and our assessment of them.

Next steps: Mickey to draft letter to the editor and CC BOS to clarify what happened.

Management and stewardship

OSC had done site walks and completed forms to inventory parcels.

Next steps:

- OSC will review and discuss data to identify how best to use if and determine what we need to do to manage these parcels.
- OSC will begin pilot projects on Craven (Patricia) and Page (Don)
- Patricia will notify BOS of pilot projects.

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Committee organization

Mike is entering his busy work season and will be unavailable in November, December, January and February. We are working to ensure someone will take over the leadership role during these months. James Ryan has resigned, due to work commitments. We are working to identify potential replacements.

Other business

Project	Updates	Next Steps
Cortland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OSC was cc'd on a letter from Larry Murphy regarding landscaping near 15 Cortland.• The landowners had landscaping done that went into the public right of way.	Mike to write to BOS requesting that the Town <ul style="list-style-type: none">• maintain access to the right of way• erect boundary markers• go on record with landowners that this is town owned land.
Land owner outreach	Books have been received	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anne to draft cover letter and send to Mike, along with database.• Mike to send 38 books to landowners.
Priority parcel list	OSC voted unanimously to approve current file but delete Knowles.	Anne to make updates.
Open Space and Recreation Plan	Before the Open Space and Recreation plan is updated, the town needs to have an ADA committee formed.	Mike to check with BOS on status of ADA board.

Next meeting Oct. 10