

Open Space Committee minutes, 6-14-2006 approved 7-6-2006

Attendees

Anne Madden, chair
Dawne Fusco
Don Bourquard
Jean Lambert
Patricia Reeser
Janet Thibeau

Topics:

- Committee appointments and reorganization
- Meeting with the Board of Selectmen
- Cawley trail
- 61A release, Mansfield
- Cell tower
- Highway barn
- Upcoming meetings

Meeting minutes

The committee unanimously approved minutes of 5-3-06.

Committee appointments and reorganization

The Board of Selectmen have extended our appointments through June 30, by which time they hope to have made reappointments, with the adjustments that we discussed at the 5-3 meeting. The chair spoke with the chair of the Board of Selectmen, and offered to interview interested volunteers for our one open position. Dick Cushing will get back to Annie. If his board agrees with that plan, we will invite the several interested prospects to our next meeting in July.

Annie again expressed interest in handing off the chairmanship. Patricia volunteered to call Mike Mokrzycki with a proposal that he be chair and that she serve as vice-chair.

Upcoming meeting with the Board of Selectmen

Dick Cushing has again expressed interest in having us in to meet with the BOS, likely in July. Topics that we would like to review with the BOS include: appointment of a ninth member, CPA bylaw planning, approval to sponsor several volunteer trail work days and whether we need any specific liability coverage or procedures, flood clean up along the Merrimack River, cell tower siting, chapter 61A option release notification.

Cawley trail

The Cawley family, after speaking with their sons and attorney, has decided to not proceed with a permanent easement over the parcel of property at the corner of Indian Hill and Middle Streets. Concerns include possible detrimental effect on future property value and options.

61A release, Mansfield, Moulton Street

The Mansfields are preparing to sell two of their lots and the town has an option on the properties which had been in Chapter 61. The Con Com and the Planning Board have advised that the town not exercise its option. The OSC has not received a formal request from the BOS seeking our recommendation, as has been past practice. We voted unanimously to recommend not exercising the towns option in this case. Patricia agreed to draft a memo reminding the BOS that it is our recommendation and request that they notify us of any properties coming out of Chapter 61 for our recommendations vis a vis open space attributes.

Cell tower

T-Mobile has proposed siting a cell tower on one of three town owned parcels : Pipestave Hill between the recycling area and the soccer field, on one of the existing towers at the Public Safety Building, or on the very top of Brake (Craven) Hill (a 150 foot tower). The committee discussed the options after reviewing the diagrams from T-Mobile. The committee recommends the Public Safety tower options as the least intrusive visually and aesthetically. There also remains concern about siting a cell tower right across from the Page School with all of the children there. Patricia offered to draft a memo to this regard to be sent to the BOS and the Planning Board.

Highway Barn

Dick Cushing relates that the Highway Barn has been delayed because of many issues with the documentation for the bids and also because of various design issues having to do with slabs, sprinklers, heating, etc. The OSC has not yet, heard back from Gary Bill, who offered to come back to us to discuss issues of building color, lighting and planting. We will notify the BOS, and Gary Bill, about our continued interest in these subjects.

Other

Don reports that the Daley parcel proposal is dead, as is the Knowles project. The Kimball lane development is underway. Don was able to share our feedback on the Kimball lane trail easement draft to the Planning Board.

Next meeting

July 12, 2006 7:30 pm