

## **Open Space Minutes, 1-4-2006**

### **Attendees**

Anne Madden (chair)  
Don Bourquard  
Dawne Fusco

Janet Thibeau  
Mickey Culver  
Mike Mokrzycki

Jean Lambert (alternate)

### **Topics covered**

- Minutes of 12/7/05
- FY 2006 budget request
- Consider special article request – refund Land Preservation/Growth Management Account
- OSC files
- Communications/OSC recruitment
- DPW-Miscellaneous
- Management planning discussion, continued
- Upcoming meetings

### **Minutes of 12/7/05**

Minutes of the Dec. 7 meeting were approved unanimously.

### **FY 2006 budget request**

The committee unanimously approved requesting \$500 for its FY 2006 budget.

### **Land Preservation/Growth Management Account**

Annie Madden reported that, per Tracy Blais, the Land Preservation/Growth Management Account was funded in FY2001 at \$100,000 and its current balance is \$2,600. The committee discussed whether to request refunding of this account. Annie will write the Selectmen to express the consensus of the committee: Given the history of this account and the Land Bond for properties with municipal uses as well as open space, we would collaborate with the Board of Selectment in supporting refunding this account in conjunction with approval of the Land Bond Protocol and refunding of the Land Bond.

### **OSC files**

Annie urged OSC members to place in the committee's files newspaper and other clippings on issues relevant to the upcoming revision of the open space management plan and other OSC issues. The committee also discussed whether to post such articles on the OSC web site; copyright and maintenance/time issues were noted.

### **Communications/OSC recruitment**

Annie asked the committee how we can get more volunteers involved in open space issues. Mike Mokrzycki noted that we should attract volunteers when we publicize a call for management stewards for town open space parcels. Janet Thibeau noted that activity surrounding the campaign for the Community Preservation Act should also attract interest.

### **DPW-miscellaneous**

The committee and Department of Public Works director Gary Bill continued the discussion begun in our November meeting regarding how the DPW and OSC could work together. Annie noted that the OSC is completing an inventory of town open space and a management plan for those parcels. This process will produce a list of jobs to be done, some of which may require the expertise and equipment of the DPW. Gary said is investigating whether to hire a full-time employee in conjunction with other town departments and that this hire would be available to help with open space-related tasks. The committee expressed willingness to support this hire.

The committee and Gary continued the prior conversation on the new highway barn. Gary said it was about to go out to bid and he hoped construction would start April 1. He said he had determined that the doors must be white but he has flexibility with the color of the rest of the building and he reiterated that he will seek OSC input on this. He also reiterated the nighttime lighting would be motion-sensitive although the lights would be left when snowplow operators are working during a storm.

Annie also asked Gary about the removal of two large old trees on the town-owned land at Cherry Hill. Gary said he had determined the trees were diseased and a hazard; a large limb snapped off one on a calm day. Gary said the town's scenic roads bylaw doesn't apply when a tree is determined to be a hazard.

#### **Management planning discussion, continued**

The committee reviewed another draft of the list of town-owned parcels of open space interest. Don Bourquard will revise for the next OSC meeting.

#### **Upcoming meetings**

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. (SECOND wed of month)

Wednesday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.

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