

Open Space Minutes, 12-7-2005

Attendees

Anne Madden (chair)	Janet Thibeau
Don Bourquard	
Dawne Fusco	Mike Mokrzycki

Topics covered

- Minutes of 11/2/05
- Mullen update
- Strieff/Schifano
- CPA planning
- Cherry Hill trees
- Management planning and stewardship
- Other
- Next meeting: Dec. 7 (or sooner if necessary re Mullen)

Minutes of 11/2/05

Minutes of the Nov. 2 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mullen update

Annie reported that the Mullen transaction has been held up on technicalities, and Mrs. Mullen agreed to give more time for the deal. The committee discussed 11/8/2005 plans for the site from Cammett Engineering – one showing existing site characteristics and two conceptual site plans, one with only access from a right-of-way off Main Street, the other with primary access from Church St. with emergency access via the Main St. ROW.

The committee also discussed the use of the Land Bond to finance most of the acquisition and deferred an opinion until we know more about how the Mullen property will be used.

Strieff/Schifano

Don updated the committee on the Planning Board's initial review of Cammett's first stage site plan for the Schifano property. The committee assessed potential trail easements and other open space implications.

Community Preservation Act planning

Annie reported she talked to Selectman O'Sullivan regarding a campaign for the Community Preservation Act in the spring election. An independent campaign committee will need to be formed; no town funds can be used on the campaign. Annie and Ann plan to create this committee after the holidays and seek volunteers and donations.

Cherry Hill trees

Annie notes that 3-4 big old trees on the Cherry Hill property at Moulton and Bachelor streets have been cut down. At least two were on town property. Annie said she emailed Selectman O'Sullivan with questions regarding compliance with the town's roads/trees bylaw and that O'Sullivan said Gary Bill said the trees were diseased and needed to be cut down.

Management planning and stewardship

Don presented a first draft of a management stewardship plan for parcels under town control. The committee reviewed it and suggested several changes; Don to present a revised version at the January OSC meeting and Mike will make a graph in Excel showing the overall distribution of uses of town lands. The committee intends to discuss the revised management plan with the Board of Selectmen for implementation.

Annie created a first draft of a parcel stewardship report, using a template from Essex County Greenbelt. Ultimately the committee intends to create a database on the OSC web site for use by the committee and volunteer stewards in managing the town's open space parcels. Annie also noted we'll need a publicity campaign to attract volunteers; Mike can design a form-to-email application for volunteers to express their interest via the OSC web site.

Janet suggested OSC members test the new system by filling out the stewardship reports ourselves. Annie said we'll divvy up parcels at our next meeting.

Cawley:

Annie noted that the Cawley property on Middle at Indian Hill Road is up for subdivision. Annie to monitor for potential trail easement connecting to the easement previously obtained for the nearby new development on Indian Hill Road.

Next meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m.