

Open Space Committee Minutes

February 26, 2014

Attending: Steve Greason, Jen Germain, Dawne Fusco, Patricia Reeser, and Mike Sabulis

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

1. Minutes: November and January minutes were not available. Approval of minutes postponed until March.

2. Mail: Steve indicated that the OSC had received two pieces of mail:

- A letter indicating that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was waiving right-of-first refusal for the Sullivan property.
- A notification that BOS has instituted a Selectmen Grant Application Policy which requires that the BOS be notified ahead of submission of any grant.

3. Ferry Landing Task Force:

- Steve reported that the BOS assembled a task force consisting of Steven and the Harbor Committee to review the Ferry Landing proposal.
- Steve's only contact has been with Steve Sheppard (local abutter). Steve is trying to get a list of the Harbor Committee members. Dawne indicated that she could provide this list.
- State's current position is to wait out winter and discuss options in the spring.
- OSC discussed that the BOS should add the ConCom, Garden Club, and other local abutters to the Task Force.

4. Atherton Site:

- Vanessa Johnson from Greenbelt attended to discuss acquisition of the Atherton property with the OSC.
- Greenbelt has submitted an application for CPA funds. Vanessa to go before the CPC on February 27, 2014.
- Greenbelt has negotiated a \$100,000 purchase price for the property with the Athertons. A Qualified Conservation Land Tax Credit of \$50,000 made this purchase price possible. The Athertons would like Greenbelt to own the property as open space and farm land.
- Vanessa requested that West Newbury contribute \$25,000 to the purchase for 2 acres of property.
- Vanessa and OSC discussed the following:
 - o Acquiring a conservation restriction on the 2 acres to maintain integrity of conservation restriction for the entire property.
 - o BOS has option to vote to re-open open the road to the house lot.
 - o Loss of property would require trail relocation to wetland area, loss of view from the hilltop, and access to quarry site.
- Greenbelt plans to get an appraisal of the 2 acres.
- Motion to Vote: Support West Newbury providing \$25,000 toward acquiring the 23-acre Atherton parcel.
 - o Steve motion to support. Jen seconded. All in favor.

3. Restoration of Pike's Bridge

- OSC discussed how restoration would be paid for:

- Funds from CPA?
- Discussed that CPC should be approached first.
- Historical Committee should also be contacted. Jen to reach out to Jane Wilde.

4. SCA Grant for Americorps and Riverbend Bridge Work

- OSC has reviewed SCA grant of \$7,000.
- Americorps can provide trained trails staff for 3 weeks to build all the bridges.
- ConCom has approved work.
- A P.E. has stamped bridge designs.
- Site visit planned with Americorps on April 3, 2014 at 2:45 pm.
- Americorps to stay at Mill Pond camp.
- Engineering services are less than \$10,000 and will not be put out to bid.
- Bid to put out to lumber suppliers for work.
- Dawne requested that a report on the grant be made at Town Meeting.
- Vote to use SCA grant for Americorps to build Riverbend bridges.
 - Steve motion to support. Jen seconded. All in favor.

5. Reimbursement

- Steve submitted an expense report for \$350 in expenses. Expenses approved by OSC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. Sabulis