

## **Open Space Committee notes, 5-3-2006 approved 6-14-06**

### **Attendees**

Anne Madden (chair)  
Dawne Fusco  
Don Bourquard  
Jean Lambert  
Patricia Reeser

### **Topics:**

- Minutes of 3-8, 3-22, 3-27 and 4-12-2006
- Committee membership
- Regular meeting night
- Review of town meeting and election
- Cawley trail easement
- Stewardship projects
- Upcoming meetings

### **Past meeting minutes**

The committee unanimously approved minutes of 3-8, 3-22, 3-27 and 4-12-2006.

### **Committee membership**

The chair has received an email from Mark Cosentino, indicating that he is unable to continue on the committee due to his work and travel commitments. The chair has thanked him for his service over the past few years. Dawne Fusco has indicated that she would like to move to an associate member status, and Jean Lambert has indicated that she would like to move to a full voting member status. We will be receiving the names of several individuals who expressed interest in the OSC at the town meeting sign up. This information will all be forwarded to the Board of Selectman by the chair. The chair continues to hope that another member might step up to the chairmanship for the next year. This will be further discussed after reappointments.

### **Meeting night**

Because of a regular conflict on the first Wednesday of the month, our regularly scheduled meeting will be the second Wednesday of the month from here forward. Members not present at this meeting who may have an objection to this should notify Annie soon.

### **Town meeting and spring election**

The committee discussed the support of town meeting to acquire the CR on the 12 acre portion of the Berkenbush's Chestnut Hill Farm along the Merrimack River. The chair has sent letters of appreciation to the Berkenbush's for their vision and generosity and to David Santomenna and Ed Becker of Essex County Greenbelt for assistance with structuring and drafting the CR, and for helping to get out the vote for the CPA.

We also discussed the passage of the CPA at the ballot (720-546) at the 3% surcharge level. Next steps will be to encourage and follow the development of the CPA committee bylaw that will need to come to fall town meeting.

### **Cawley Trail Easement**

The Cawleys continue to generously work with the town to grant a trail easement over their property at the corner of Middle and Indian Hill Street. Late last year, they donated 18 acres to Greenbelt. Our trail group and ECTA will continue to work with the Cawleys and with Greenbelt (now and abutter to the trail) to finalize the route and the documents. We have spoken to Judy Mizner of Con Com, who will come to the next site walk to discuss the wetland implications, especially as it impacts the connection to the easement previously granted for the Cherry Hill/Indian Hill development parcel which traverses a stream with steep

banks. The chair has written a note of thanks to the Cawleys for their conservation efforts and their outstanding contributions to the community.

### **Stewardship**

The committee noted the great work of Gary Bill and his department clearing big trees from the trail at the top of Pipestave heading down to Riverbend (behind the water tower.) Previously, the chair had a conversation with the then Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Ann O'Sullivan, indicating that it is appropriate for the OSC to discuss recommended projects of this type directly to Gary Bill of DPW. If he has any concern about it, he can take it to the BOS. She indicated that we do not need to review each and every project with the BOS unless there are obvious concerns. We agreed that this is a good topic to review with the BOS at an upcoming joint meeting between the BOS and the OSC, a meeting suggested by the new chair of the BOS, Dick Cushing. We also briefly reviewed the great work done by a community group cleaning up the River Rd. bank, and the need for another clean up day at Riverbend where the tide brings in huge amounts of debris. The poison ivy, however, will likely preclude getting to this this spring. Patricia Reeser offered to see if a boy scout troop might take this on.

### **Next meeting**

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm (Note this is the second Wednesday of the month.)