

**TOWN OF ACTON
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 2, 2018
7:30 AM
ACTON TOWN HALL – ROOM 9**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: *Andy Magee, Terry Maitland, Emilie Ying, Matt Mostoller, Dick Hatfield, Will Hill, Tom Tidman (NR liaison), Katie Green (BoS liaison)*

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: *Dave Marshall*

RECORDING SECRETARY: *Fran Portante*

VISITORS: *Gene Berinsin, Susan Mitchel-Hardt, Joe Will, Michaela Moran, Sandra Mika*

Andy offered congratulations to Matt and the entire Water District department on the receipt of the Mass. Water Works Association's (MWWA) Executive Director Award for 2017. (Excerpt of the article, as it appeared in the Winter 2018 Water Words Newsletter is appended to these minutes.)

1. Minutes:

December 1, 2017: Dick moved to accept the minutes, Terry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

February 2, 2018: Dick moved to accept the minutes, Terry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. 2018 CPA Application: The original request from OSC was \$420K for acquisition and \$30K for appraisals and other miscellaneous costs. The CPA had a surplus of funds and increased the allocation of funds to \$530K total.

3. 32 Wetherbee Street: Susan reported that the owner of the property, Clem Moritz, recently passed away. Included in the property ownership are two large parcels abutting Conservation Land, one of which is 27+ acres and the other about 5 acres. This land is among the priority open space parcels identified in the OSRP: in Zone 2, adjacent to conservation land, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and the Assabet Watershed. There are also two vernal pools on the property. The discussion supported a high level of interest by the committee in this property. Susan has spoken to the daughter of the deceased owner, who was open to discussion. Andy will set up a meeting with Susan and the owner's daughter.

Motion: Terry moved to authorize the chairman to offer to have an appraisal done on the property. Dick seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

4. Piper Lane update: Andy raised the question, could the Town offer to purchase the property at the appraised value of \$550K, put a CR on the back lot and flip the house. The house is in decent shape. Michaela talked to the interested developer who indicated a \$900K price was

being discussed. Neighbors at 4 Piper had been approached by the developer to sell a small portion of land for \$25K. Neighbors are also trying to meet with the owner to get a firm offer to purchase the property and if they could raise funds to meet the difference between the appraised and asking price. Tom raised the possibility of taking down the house and keeping the entire parcel for open space. The question is how to present this at Town Meeting.

5. Miscellaneous updates:

161 Newtown Road: Tom will be meeting with Christa to walk the site.

183 Newtown Road: no update

Brucewood lots: Owners would like the Town to acquire the lots. They are in wetland and river-front so not sellable. Tom left a message with Odessa (the Auto Auction). This is not a high priority.

53 River Street: A committee is now in place that will begin meeting this week.

Quarry Road: no update

Stonefield Farm: Owners are still considering the offer for the CR. Carver Hill has just placed an Agricultural Restriction on their property which can serve as a model for a way to preserve the farming operation at Stonefield.

Acton Dog Park: the committee continues to meet and to consider where to locate the facility.

6. Discussion of Conservation Restrictions, including Grace Property: Fran reported that, in the process of organizing and update records of existing properties listed as being protected with Conservation Restrictions, it was discovered that CR mandated by the settlement of W.R. Grace with the Town in 2009 was never completed. Andy will contact Town Counsel to follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

**Next Meeting: April 6, 2018, 7:30 AM
(Acton Town Hall – Room 9)**

District Recognized

On November 3, 2017 the Acton Water District received the Massachusetts Water Works Association's (MWWA) Executive Director Award for 2017. This award is presented annually to a MWWA member whose knowledge, accomplishments and contributions in the waterworks industry and also outstanding service to the Association entitles that individual to special recognition. For the first time since it was established in 2007, this award was presented to a utility rather than an individual. The District was chosen for this award by MWWA's executive director Jennifer Pederson for their support of the association and its programs and services to advance the water works profession. It was noted that District staff are approachable, friendly and do their best to provide their customers with great service. During the awards ceremony, Pederson also acknowledged how the District is a progressive utility in their promotion of water conservation and efficiency, they are attune to legislative and regulatory issues facing public water systems and get involved when called upon. Locally, the Acton Garden Club recognized the Acton Water District for having the Best Waterwise Landscape in 2017. The demonstration garden in front of the District office is a partnership between the District and local organizations, such as the Garden Club and Girl Scouts, which serves to highlight water efficient gardening success. Mary Jo Bates and Beth Secinaro accepted the award at the Garden Club meeting on October 3, 2017 along with other local businesses that were recognized for having exceptional landscapes throughout town.