

Acton Open Space Committee meeting

Oct. 19, 2006, 7:30 AM

Final

Attending: Andy Magee, Charlie Carlson, Peter Ashton, Karen O'Neill, Ruth Martin, Visiting: Susan Mitchell Hardt

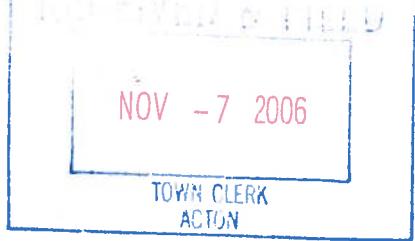
7:35 meeting opened. Andy noted the following topics for the agenda:

1. Update on the CR project – and State of the Town meeting
2. Review CR memo by Charlie
3. Update on Groener land/project

1. Motion to accept minutes of Sept. 15th and Oct. 6th. Moved, seconded and all approved.

2. State of the town meeting will be Monday, Nov. 20th. The CR project is listed as one of the topics to be presented and discussed. The list of topics – as sent by town manager, are as follows:

1. WR Grace Update
2. Acton Neighborhood Network (ANN) Update
3. Design Review Guidelines Update
4. 5-Year Capital Plan
5. "990" School Instructional Issue
6. Conservation Restrictions on Town-Owned Properties



By next Thursday (Oct 26th) the OSC must have a presentation prepared. ACTION: Andy will write this and circulate to OSC members for comments: Package will include:

➤ What is the problem we hope to address with this project? (Show examples of municipalities that have turned their Article 97 lands over for other purposes.)

➤ What is a Conservation Restriction? Ref: EOEA materials – <http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/restrictions>

3. Charlie distributed an updated memo about the CR project. He expressed a few concerns regarding the process: Is the pace too fast? It's important that we spend time talking to the various constituencies who are involved with these properties. Also, we need time to be certain that CR's on these various properties do not come in conflict with a specific deed. We need time to be sure there are no title conflicts and to get input from town counsel. (Peter noted that town counsel has started to review this). Charlie also asked, "Is this the issue that OSC wants to lead with?" Andy added his concern that OSC has not talked to ACT or any potential holders of the CR's. Karen expressed concern that so far, she has not found any other towns, which have done a similar project. (Karen will continue to research). Although there are many examples of municipalities which have regularly and routinely turned their Article 97 lands over for other purposes. ACTION: Specific examples will be given to Andy by Susan and Karen.

Concerns were discussed. It was noted that the State of the Town meeting gives us a chance to get feedback on this general concept.

3. Groener property: – Susan Mitchell Hardt and Peter Ashton met with town manager. Don Johnson will begin negotiations with landowners and draft P&S. Town Manager and Town Counsel will clarify the process and work on the application to CPC. Property is +/- 12.5 acres.

Next OSC will be Nov. 3rd (Friday morning) at 7:30 A.M. Meeting ended ~ 8:30