

Acton Open Space Committee meeting

Oct. 6, 2006, 7:30 AM

Final minutes – voted to approve 10/19/2006

Attending: Andy Magee, Charlie Carlson, Peter Ashton, Dick Hatfield, Karen O'Neill, Jane Ceraso, Ruth Martin, Tom Tidman. Visiting: Susan Mitchell Hardt

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

1. Update on the Town land – CR project
2. Review CR memo by Charlie
3. Update on Groener land/project
4. Update on Kennedy land

1. Update on CR project for town conservation land: Andy and Peter met with Town Manager.

There was some question about CR on “town land on Estabrook Rd”. John Murray was confused about a request Karen made to him. Karen noted that ALL CR’s (even private landowners in contract with a private land trust – as is the case with the Estabrook Rd. CR) must be signed off by the town government before submitting to state EOEA.

During discussions with Town manager, Peter and Andy struggle with **the 3rd party involvement**....can the town hold the CR? Charlie pointed out that the Town of Acton retains its ownership of the land, but the land trust monitors the conservation restriction. If the town is support of having restrictions on these properties, then the holder of these restrictions doesn’t matter.

Peter and Andy agreed that this should be a question for spring town meeting. They also asked Town Manager to review this with Town Counsel. They also asked for examples of:

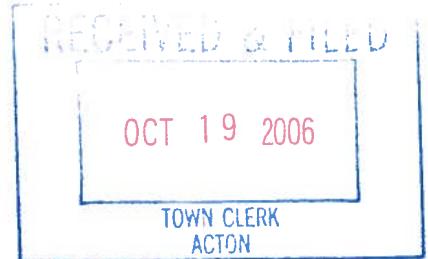
- Towns, which converted conservation land (article 97) into build-able land
- Towns that put CR’s on existing conservation lands.

ACTION: Karen will get some examples.

2. Discussion on CR memo distributed by Charlie: All agreed that the properties listed were good. There was some discussion about including Wetherbee, Great Hill and other properties. Timeline: in order to make April town meeting, we need to have a Warrant article by December, and have an educational campaign in Jan. – Feb – March. Also need to understand the cost of doing CR’s. Use the CPA money to fund an endowment?? Peter suggested we introduce the idea at the State of the Town Meeting on Nov. 20th.

Andy asked if all on the committee were still in favor of putting CR’s on the conservation lands? All said “yes”.

ACTION: All committee members must send comments to Charlie about memo prior to next OSC meeting. Charlie will talk with Jim Snyder Grant and exploring including other parcels.



3. Groener property: – Susan Mitchell Hardt reported that ACT will create a proposal for CPC. Land was appraised at \$6500 per acre. ACT is putting together an option to purchase. Peter noted that it is now time to get the Town Manager and Town Counsel involved.

ACTION: Susan and Peter will meet to determine next steps.

4. Kennedy land: Tom talked with Doug Kennedy and was told that the “family hasn’t gotten together to talk”....and left the impression that there was no impending sale. Committee asked if it would be possible for the Town of Acton to make an offer to purchase??

ACTION: Andy offered to create some maps showing overlays of property attributes.

Next OSC meetingS will be Oct. 19 (THURSDAY) at 7:30 AM & Nov. 3rd (Friday)

Meeting ended 8:40