

Acton Open Space Committee meeting

September 15, 2006, 7:30 AM

OCT 19 2006

FINAL Minutes

TOWN CLERK
ACTION

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

Visiting: Susan Mitchell Hardt, Jim Snyder Grant, Belle Choate

7:30 meeting opened

1. Moved to approved minutes of July 14th meeting.
2. Andy noted that **Selectmen have established a written policy** that draft minutes for meetings must be done and circulated (within the committee) within 10 days. Final minutes must be voted on by the second meeting after and then circulated and sent to the Clerk within 10 days.
3. Andy opened discussion of **officers** for this committee. The committee requested that Andy Magee continue as chair and Karen O'Neill continue as clerk. Peter Ashton moved the question and Charlie Carlson seconded. Motion unanimous.
4. **Update on CPC** – by Andy. CPC has received notice of funding with surcharge totally \$652,000 plus matching funds + \$86K available from reserve.... The town will have \$1,390,000 available this year. CPC will hold an informational meeting on Sept. 28th. Amount available for land/open space from prior year set-asides is ~ \$900K.

Proposals are due Nov. 13th. They will be reviewed and decided by end of Feb. Final recommendations are then put on the warrant for spring town meeting.

The committee discussed reasonable options to pursue:

- Donald property – next to arboretum – Action: Karen and Tom will follow up immediately.
- Kennedy – 60 acres next to NARA – Action: Tom will follow up immediately with both the Kennedy's and Jon Avery. If an appraisal is needed to move this project, the committee voted to approve spending funds for a preliminary appraisal to establish a potential selling price.
- Groener property – Susan Mitchell Hardt reported that ACT is waiting for them to get results of their appraisal. The back taxes owed are \$12K. ACT will continue to work on bringing that project to closure.

BF Railtrail – an RFP for the 25 % design went out and 15 firms showed up to bid.

5. **Update on CR project** for town conservation lands: Charlie reported that Karen, Charlie and Bob Guba walked Pratts Brook and discussed Grassy Pond. It was agreed that the next steps should be to have Karen, Charlie and Bob meet to review each parcel (using Bob's knowledge and the OSRP for background) and list site and parcel specific issues.

Jim Snyder Grant noted that The OSRP defines which parcels are bought by self help funds (and therefore "owned" by the ConsCom) and which parcels were not purchased by self help.... Perhaps making the Selectmen the controlling entity. There are 3 parcels (2 Town forest and Weatherbee) where the legal status is unclear. Belle Choate noted that the Town charter gives control of all town lands to the Town Manager.

Action: Peter will discuss this with Town Counsel

Action: Committee will present an update to the Selectmen – Peter and Andy will arrange a date

Action: Charlie will set up a meeting with Jim, Karen, and Bob Guba to write the CR and note specifics for each parcel.

Next Meeting: Oct 6th at 7:30 AM

Adjourn at 8:48