Open Space Committee

Minutes from January 15, 2008

Attendees: Justine Kent-Uritam (Chairman), Jane Brace, Henry Faulkner, Boynton Glidden, Beedee Ladd, Amey Moot, David Patterson, Will Schulz, Phil Trotter, Kathy Weld, Catherine Friend White

Absent: Jerry Arnold, Jim Fleming

Justine opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes from the November 6, 2007 meeting were approved.

2008-2009 Open Space Plan: Massachusetts requires that towns’ open space plans be updated every five years. Consultant Dave Everett prepared the last plan in 2003. Gino Carlucci did the plan in 1997. Discussion of whether to do it ourselves or hire a consultant again. Beedee will speak with Gino Carlucci to discuss the complexity of updating the 2003 plan, a copy of which is on our compact disk. Amey agreed to attempt to copy the old plan from said disk and distribute copies.

Based on comments from Dave Ramsey, we will revise and broaden the language in our proposed warrant article requesting funds for the updating of the Master Plan and other OSC projects. We believe that approximately $2,500 remains unspent from the 2002 appropriation. A request of $5,000 of new money was discussed. Justine will follow up on this.

Trustees of Reservations (“TTOR”) parking lot: An easement issue has developed regarding this parcel on Powisset Street. Legal research will probably be required before this project can move forward.

Forest Management Plan, Center Street Corridor: The lack of adequate trail signs at Wylde Woods was mentioned. This may be a 2008 Dover Conservation Commission (“ConCom”) project. The ConCom's current management plan was discussed. It was prepared by Phil Benjamin in 2003. On December 4, 2007, Sy Balch of the New England Forestry Foundation led a site walk through Wylde Woods, discussing the many possible management techniques. Multiple sub-parcels, each with its own stewardship plan, are a possibility. ConCom will be deliberating on proper forest management techniques for Wylde Woods throughout 2008. Will agreed to follow up on this. Enlisting the input of a couple of local science teachers, knowledgeable in forestry, might aid in a public relations campaign. The UMass Amherst Keystone Project, a three day forestry workshop to be held on April 24-27 at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, was discussed. The application deadline is March 3. The cost is $65 per person. Any interest from OS or ConCom committee members?
Open Space Zoning Proposal: Henry Faulkner reported that the Planning Board intends to bring this proposal back to the 2008 Town Meeting, since it failed by only two votes to get the required two-thirds vote at the 2007 Town Meeting. The Planning Board is discussing changes that may address some of the objections of those that voted against it.

97 Walpole Street trail easement: The Planning Board's approval of the six-home subdivision plan proposed by the Colonial Road abutters group was appealed. Project may be headed back to court. Beedee mentioned that there used to be a cart path where the developer cut an access road. ConCom has never acknowledged the prior existence of a path. The developer’s illegal cutting of trees for the access road led to significant fines being levied by ConCom. To date, the developer has ignored these fines. Beedee suggested the possibility of having a trail where the access road has been cut to serve as a connector between Hale Reservation and Fred Muzi's property and Rocky Woods. She will bring maps to an upcoming OSC meeting so we can discuss the implications of potential connector trail(s).

Trail Easement, D-S Regional Schools: no new news

Caryl Park, new playing fields(Park and Rec): Dave mentioned the difficulty in obtaining sufficient water for the fields in 2007. Park and Rec hopes to build two new playing fields at the site, on 1 to 1 1/2 acres of land, currently wooded. They plan to seek private funding and to use artificial turf for one or both of the fields. One would be a girls' softball field; the other a combination field, usable for both soccer and lacrosse.

Septic/Water Educational Pamphlets: Catherine discussed the production of a septic/water education pamphlet, to be distributed to all Dover households. Cost needs to be researched. The possibilities of having it on the town website and of using local student intern labor in its preparation were discussed.

Other Items: Phil and Jerry will propose some dates for a winter walk

Upcoming Open Space Committee meetings are scheduled for February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10

Justine adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Schulz, Rotating Clerk