

Dover Open Space Committee

Minutes

May 5, 2009 – Town House

Attendance: Members: Justine Kent-Uritam, Chair, Rich Oasis, Jane Brace, Andy Thompson, Catherine White, Boynton Glidden, Henry Faulkner, and Amey Moot. **Others:** Carol Lisbon (selectmen) **Absent:** Sierra Bright, Paul Angelico, Eamon O'Marah

- Justine began the meeting at 7:35pm
- Rich volunteered as rotating clerk for the meeting.
- A motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2009 was made by Justine. The motion was seconded by Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.
- Catherine filled the committee in on the trail hike/nature walk. The event was very informative and enjoyable for those who attended. The committee discussed ways of getting more attendance in the future.
- Justine returned from a weekend in Petersham, MA and filled the committee in on her findings. She returned with brochures, pamphlets, and books describing different forms of open space management. The information she brought back was distributed to the committee members for their edification.
- The committee reviewed and approved the list of Lands of Interest. This list will be given to Gino Carlucci for inclusion in the Open Space Plan.
- Carol agreed to bring an example of a CR to our next meeting so committee members could better understand the process and net result of a CR.
- Last month the Dover OSC assigned its members to work with the different town groups and agencies to better understand their future needs and direction regarding open space.
- Justine is working with Ross Whistler to update trail maps.
- Jane presented committee with copies of 1965 riding and walking trail map.

Rich spoke about his discussions with Parks & Recreation. Parks & Recreation uses a variety of different approaches to preserve and protect the field space, implementing best management practices to ensure the continued safety and use of the fields. In the spring, the focus is on preparing the athletic fields, the town green, Chickering, and the library. In the fall, general maintenance is done on all areas. In addition, one of the two fields at Chickering is rested every fall to allow additional growth and maintenance. This winter, following the advice of Davey Tree, Parks & Recreation cut down some trees at the far end of Caryl Park to allow for better air flow

and more sun to help dry out the far field. In the past, Parks & Recreation has also consulted with Greg Dowd, a graduate of the UMASS Land Management program for advice on our parks and fields.

Specifically, Parks & Recreation utilizes Integrated Pesticide Management. All organic fertilizers are used. There was an instance where the fertilizers didn't work on grubs and a specific pesticide was required. Signs were posted all over to notify townspeople and field users. Parks & Recreation also works closely with Ralph Kelly, head custodian at the high school to ensure we work together regarding field maintenance.

Field availability is a growing concern. In the past two years between 10 and 25 children are turned away from athletic programs due to lack of field space. Many of the existing fields cannot be rested and therefore are overused. The recent surge in the past three years in girls' softball and lacrosse has necessitated finding more fields. In fact, Dover does not have any softball fields at Chickering or Caryl Park. Parks & Recreation believes additional fields and/or reconfiguration of existing fields at Caryl Park would minimize or alleviate this unfortunate situation.

Other Open Space members are meeting with various departments throughout town. Their update will occur in our next meeting. In terms of assignments, Andy will contact the Dover School Committee, Henry is meeting with the Planning Board on May 18th, and Boynton is reaching out to the Cemetery Commission. Amey is meeting with the Recycling Committee on June 1st and also trying to meet with the Library Trustees. Jane has a meeting with the Board of Health in May. Catherine noted that the Sawin Building is owned and managed by the Historical Society which is a not-for-profit entity distinct from the town. On the other hand, the Caryl Parsonage is owned by the town and is managed by the Board of Selectmen in cooperation with the Historical Society. Parks and Recreation manages the grounds around the Caryl House.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:30pm.

Justine adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Oasis