

**Open Space Committee  
Minutes  
June 2, 2009**

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

Justine began the meeting at 7:35 PM.

**I. Approval of the Minutes**

Upon the motion of Amey, with a second by Henry, the Minutes of May 5, 2009 were approved with two abstentions from Paul and Sierra who had not attended that meeting. Rich Oasis will forward the minutes to the Town Clerk.

**II. Reappointment of OSC Members**

Board of Selectmen Chair, Carol Lisbon, asked that all members of the OSC contact her about their willingness to continue serving on this committee. The OSC appointments run from July 1 to June 30 each year. Justine will follow up with phone calls to Eamon and Boynton about this matter.

**III. Committee Liaison Reports**

**A. Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee**

Sierra contacted Valerie Spriggs, the Dover-Sherborn School Superintendent, by email. Various items discussed were the use of the D-S fields by pedestrians, dog walkers, and equestrians. Sierra will follow up on this matter.

Another issue was how the D-S Schools shared their facilities with others, such as the Dover Park and Rec Commission. Again, Sierra will follow up on this issue.

According to Ms. Spriggs, parking is not an issue at the school nor is there any plan to install artificial turf on site.

**B. Board of Health**

Jane attended a recent meeting of the Board of Health. The major issue of concern at the moment appears to be Lyme disease. The Board of Health mailed out a questionnaire to approximately 2,000 households and received 738 responses. Of those responding, 487 households had experienced someone with Lyme disease and 251 had not. Based on this information, the Board of Health has established a Lyme Disease Committee to research what measures, if any, should be taken to reduce the incidence of this disease in town. Jane reported that other areas of concern were mosquito spraying, salt on the roads, and mercury in thermostats and in batteries.

**C. Police Chief**

Paul spoke with Joe Griffin, the Police Chief, who said that he would encourage people to use Dover's open spaces. One of Chief Griffin's main problems is parking issues on Powissett Street. He would like to see this situation resolved. Drinking by under aged children continues to be a problem. Regarding bicyclists, a recent change in the state law permits bicyclists to ride side-by-side on the roads although they must revert to single file

when a car is trying to pass them. Chief Griffin is not an advocate of bike lanes on public roads, however. Regarding domesticated animal problems, loose dogs and barking dogs continue to present problems from time to time. Regarding wildlife, there is no hunting on public lands without permission of the public authorities. On private land, hunting is permitted at certain seasons and at certain distances from other dwellings with the written permission of the private landowners. Regarding boating problems on the Charles River, these matters are handled by the State Police.

#### **D. Conservation Commission**

According to Paul, the major goal of the ConCom is to have a forest management plan for its lands.

#### **E. Historic Commission**

Sierra contacted the Historic Commission in order to obtain the list of all houses built before 1930. According to Gino Carlucci, the inclusion of this list is not required in the updated Open Space Plan. Henry indicated that it would be useful in the town's new Master Plan. So, Sierra will try to obtain it.

#### **IV. Conservation Restrictions**

Justine distributed booklets to the OSC members regarding how conservation restrictions (CR) work and how other land use planning tools function like Chapter 61 lands.

Through the current year, there are favorable tax incentives for donations of conservation restrictions. Not only does the value of the CR reduce a person's taxable estate, but a landowner can also deduct the value of the CR up to 50% of his/her AGI for a period of 16 years.

Carol distributed copies of a recent CR in Dover to committee members so everyone could see what one looked like. Going forward, the OSC would like to perform outreach to landowners in Dover regarding CR's.

#### **V. University of Massachusetts CD**

Justine had a copy of power point presentations of land management and other lectures that she heard from presenters at the University of Massachusetts and environmental groups like The Nature Conservancy. If anyone would like to make copies of the CD, she encourages them to contact her.

#### **VI. Dover Days**

Justine would like someone to spear head a public outreach effort on Dover Days on September 12 to get input regarding open space matters. She will contact Catherine about heading this project up.

The next meeting of the OSC will occur on June 16, 2009.

Justine adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Justine Kent-Uritam