

DOVER OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Minutes for October 6th, 2015

Attendees: Jerry Arnold, Mark Bush, Boynton Glidden, Justine Kent-Uritam, Eric Loeffler, Candace McCann, Amey Moot (Chair), Tara Nolan, Dick Wood, Paul Wood, and Jack Donoghue (Long Range Planning Committee).

Absent: Henry Faulkner, Barbara Roth-Schechter.

Amey called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

(1) Amey introduced a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting (Sept. 8, 2015) which was duly seconded and approved unanimously.

(2) Amey then introduced Jack Donoghue, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, here to describe the “Green Community Certification Plan”.

Jack proceeded to describe this as a community (town) process whereby open land could be re-zoned for siting of renewable/alternative energy generation facilities. In Dover’s case this would be for solar panels.

Jack advised that state grant money was available for many energy efficiency projects if the town enacted such re-zoning and became a ‘Green’. The 10+ acre parcel of land abutting the Dover Transfer Station on Powisset St. would be a good choice. This land is owned by Hale Reservation and they are amenable to this plan.

Basically, if the land is re-zoned, a solar company could lease the land from the owner, set up operations and sell the energy. The town would get access to the grant money and it would become a “win – win “ proposition for all.

Jack distributed hand-outs to the committee and advised that this would be presented to the Selectmen at a future meeting.

(3) MEMBERSHIP: The Committee asked Candace to have the Selectmen appoint Tara to the OSC. Amey advised that she would be the Conservation Commission member for the Open Space Committee.

(4) SATURDAY STROLLS: Amey reviewed the upcoming “Saturday Strolls” at Powisset Farm (Oct. 10), Tri-Town Trail (Nov. 7), and at Peters Reservation/ Chase Woodlands on Nov. 14. She urged all members to attend and/or publicize these walks.

(5) PEGAN HILL: Amey reviewed the basic outline of the land acquisition at the top of Pegan Hill. This was accomplished by diligent work and fundraising, primarily by the Trustees of Reservation, Dover Land Conservation Trust, and the Town of Natick.

(6) TRAIL CREWS: Amey discussed volunteer opportunities to help clear trails – meeting on Wednesdays at 9:00 A.M. at Powisset Farm, and working until noon.

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(7) DOVER LAND CONSERVATION TRUST: Jerry advised that the lawyers and surveyors are finalizing the Stone property donation to the DLCT. Boynton advised that the annual DLCT meeting will be held at the top of Pegan Hill on Oct. 25, celebrating this land acquisition and the 50 year anniversary of the DLCT.

(8) UPPER CHARLES CONSERVATION LAND TRUST: Justine led a discussion about the UCCLT/ Holliston Rail Trail as it pertains to the Greenway/Rail Trail plans afoot in Dover. Justine offered to guide members on a walk along the Holliston trail.

Justine further discussed the various methods of using Community Preservation Act funds to acquire land for various purposes. Dover does not have a Community Preservation Act plan.

(9) NORFOLK HUNT CLUB: Amey briefed us on upcoming hunts and where to observe them.

(10) PARKS AND RECREATION: Eric advised that all was going well here. He briefed us on current activities, including soil testing of the fields at Caryl Park.

(11) BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Candace reported that the recycling program for the town was still in the "listening phase".

Candace advised that the report of the Springdale Study Committee (SSC) is being drawn up now by the committee and would be reviewed by the Selectmen at their meeting on Nov. 5.

Candace reported that the Selectmen had not yet appointed the Hydrologic Study Committee.

(12) SPRINGDALE STUDY COMMITTEE: Amey led a general discussion of the SSC survey results of which 510 completed responses have been received. From the survey, respondents seemed to prefer keeping the majority of 46 Springdale as open space and selling the house and some adjacent acreage. This is still under discussion by the SSC, and their recommendations will be forthcoming.

(13) After noting that the next meeting of the Open Space Committee would be on Nov. 3rd, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Boynton Glidden