

**DOVER OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
APRIL 5, 2016**

**Members Present:** Amey Moot (Chair), Eric Loeffler, Boynton Glidden, Justine Kent-Uritam, Eric Krusell, Tara Nolan, Paul Wood, Mark Bush and Jerry Arnold. **Non-Voting Liaison:** Candace McCann. **Absent:** Tim Holiner, Dick Wood and Henry Faulkner. **Guests:** Valerie Lin and Kevin Ban from Friends of Dover Greenway

Amey called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**I. Approval of the Minutes**

Upon a motion by Tim, the Minutes of March 8, 2016, as amended, were approved by all members, except Justine who abstained.

**II. Discuss Votes on Open Space Articles on Warrant**

**Springdale Farm (Article 17)** – After a fair amount of discussion, OSC supports preserving the 23 acres as open field and maintaining the field as an open meadowland. That said, OSC cannot support the endeavor without some form of appropriate access for maintenance of the field. Unanimous.

**Dover Greenway (Article 18)**– Today OSC received three emails from people supporting the trail including one from an abutter. Previously, the OSC had received and reviewed a study on wildlife provided by two citizens, Karen O’Conner and Missy Gramer of Be True To Dover. Amey met with them as well. Her meeting, their issues and the report were discussed. There was discussion about the various studies developed to assess the impact of the trail. Boynton had several questions about the Greenway questionnaire, costs and disposition of the rails, as well as location of the necessary staging of equipment. The current plan is to have the trail run from Springdale and go south toward Medfield. Most abutters that oppose the effort are north of Haven Street. Boynton wants to ensure the project will have financial transparency on the source of funding. We were informed that the Friends of the Dover Greenway agree with this. Ms. Lin and Mr. Ban pointed out that the funds they raise are given to the Town so the project will be managed by the Town, as the engineering study was. There was discussion of some of the other 49 towns that have undertaken rail trail conversions.

Valarie Lin and Kevin Ban joined in the discussion regarding the Greenway and answered further OSCs questions. There was discussion about the impact of bikes going onto the roads into the center of town with the rail stopping at Springdale rather than continuing north. The OSC discussed and got information regarding contaminants and how to keep the soil and water safe. Friends of Greenway wanted the Article to direct the Selectmen to sign the lease. There was substantial discussion about the liability terms of the lease and making sure that the Town does not take on unreasonable risk.

On a motion by Eric and second by Justine, the voting members unanimously support the Article authorizing the Selectmen to acquire the lease.

**Green Town Initiative (Articles 14 and 15)** – The OSC had previously met with representatives from Long Range Planning on this Initiative. Justine moved that OSC

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support the Green Town Initiative. After a second by Tim, the motion was approved unanimously.

**Conservation Funding (Article 11)** – Justine moved that the OSC support the Conservation Funding in Article 11. After a second by Boynton the motion was unanimously approved.

**III. Other Business and Updates from Relevant Boards:**

At Amey's suggestion, the Committee recommitted to review the web page and develop comments for discussion at our next meeting. Public walks have been posted and members were encouraged to identify any additional locations for posting information on the Saturday Strolls. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, a Tri-Town walk will be held through Hale reservation, TTOR and Town properties across Dover to Medfield. The Pegan Hill project is completed. The Trustees have some upcoming volunteer opportunities as well as gatherings and a brunch. Amey had handouts about those events and they are noted on the Trustees web page.

Justine provided an overview of the information gleaned at the MA Land Trust Alliance Conference that she, Amey and Tara attended. Justine went to session on handicapped access. Based on litigation and issues raised at cases involving federal lands the test seems to be "reasonable accommodation" for 30-inch wide wheel chairs, as well as handicapped parking. Surface is a key factor. If there is a public trail, you must provide some portion that is handicapped accessible; however it does not have to be the full length of the trail. This is something to track and be mindful of for Dover as we undertake new projects and consider current public spaces. Second session addressed land trusts disposition of land with CRs and renewal of CRs that have limited terms.

Justine is offering another guided visit to the Holliston Rail Trail for anyone interested. She will be leaving at 10 AM Friday from the Town Hall.

Boynton note that the Center Street project is at the monumenting stage. Justine will talk with the water person at her April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Amey noted that the Hunt is doing a trail clean up this Saturday which will include Wylde Woods. Also Broadmoor's 100th anniversary is on Saturday. Con Com is going to check out vernal pools on Saturday. Paul McManus is doing presentation.

Amey adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tara L. Nolan