

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016
HEARING RM. 3, 2ND FLOOR at 7:30 pm
MARSHFIELD TOWN HALL
MARSHFIELD, MA

A meeting of the Marshfield Open Space Committee ("the Committee") was called to order at 7:40 pm. Chairperson Karen O'Donnell (KO), members Vicki McPherson (VM), Tom Whalen (TW), Chad Haitsma (CH) and Sue MacCallum (SM) were present. Bob Shaughnessy (BS), Michael Biviano (MB) and Chris Ciocca (CC) were absent.

The Committee reviewed regular and executive session minutes for September 17, 2015, October 22, 2015, November 19, 2015 and January 14, 2016. TW made a motion to accept the regular and executive session minutes for September 17, October 22 and November 19, 2015 and January 14, 2016. KO seconded. All those members present voted to approve minutes of all meetings for which they were in attendance.

The next meeting date was tentatively set for April 21, 2015.

PROPERTY UPDATES:

Pratt Property Trails & Kayak Launch

The AAB variance request has been approved. VM reported that because there is no impact to the wetlands, Jay will separate out and there will be no need for a Notice of Intent. Gail Hunter has requested the placing of a memorial granite bench near the site of the canoe/kayak launch. TW inquired about installation. It was noted that Seone Landscaping would be handling the installation. Discussion continued on the bidding process for the Pratt property project.

DISCUSSION:

Conservation Restrictions

KO reported that she had talked with Scott MacFaden at Wildlands regarding CRs. Apparently in December the Department of Conservation Services updated their CR template. There was a discussion of the outstanding CRs and their related costs. TW stated

that some estimates are 6-8 years old. SM stated that at this point it would be more expensive to complete them. The properties with CRs in process are Salvetti (plan was updated with more monuments because of encroachment issues), Holly Road, Jomat, Maryland St, Bennett (off Careswell); SM is still waiting on information.

DISCUSSION:

Comprehensive Trails Study

KO reported that the survey is still in play and that there is a push to pave. The group has some maps and plans for trail maps with suggestions for trail parking, maintenance, etc. TW reported that BL Industries cost for paving is prohibitive along the bridle path.

Town Meeting Warrant Article – 310 Furnace Street

KO reported that the landowner had received approval to demolish the building at the Historical Commission meeting on March 2nd.

OSRP Update Process

There was a general discussion of what will be required for the update. TW stated that we would need to go out to bid for professional services and can possibly use CPC Administrative funds. SM stated that we will need to update maps, goals and objectives and there needs to be a community survey with a public hearing and input.

Open Space Land Acquisition Policy

Discussion continued from the last meeting regarding the idea of purchasing easements, CRs or development rights on properties instead of fee purchase. It may be difficult for Town Meeting to pass because of lack of public access. It is hard for the community to reconcile spending public dollars without public access. When you are spending 70-90% of the value for the restriction, it is sometimes just better to purchase.

KO made a motion at 9:46 pm to enter into executive session not to return to regular session, for real property discussion because discussion in an open session may be detrimental to the Committee's negotiating position. SM seconded. Roll call vote: TW yes, VM yes, CH yes, SM yes and KO yes.

Submitted by Karen O'Donnell