

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015
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 7:36 pm. Chairperson Karen O’Donnell (KO), members Vicki McPherson (VM), Chad Haitsma (CH), Bob Shaughnessy (BS), Chris Ciocca (CC), Tom Whalen (TW) and Sue MacCallum (SM) were present. Michael Biviano (MB) was absent.

Residents Muriel Toucey, Kurt Toucey and Bob DeCastro were also present.

The Committee reviewed executive session minutes for August 20, 2015. KO made a motion to accept the executive session minutes for August 20, 2015 as written. TW seconded. All said aye.

The next meeting date was tentatively set for November 19, 2015.

Updates on current properties were discussed.

- Holly Road
 - A site visit is scheduled with a representative from Merrill on October 30 at 2:30 pm. VM and KO will attend. TW asked about the parking area. DPW has not started it. TW would like to get quotes to have it done by an outside contractor.

- Archer
 - KO had suggested to Wildlands that they get on the Board of Public Works agenda and talk with Conservation about trail work. VM volunteered to work with Wildlands as a representative of the Trails Committee.

- Jomat
 - There was a discussion of the pending STM Article for the purchase of the Jomat property off Union Street. Muriel and Kurt Toucey and Bob DeCastro are abutters to this property and were present for the discussion. Mrs. Toucey expressed her appreciation for being contacted by the Committee to provide input on this purchase. She noted that she was very happy that the Town was considering the purchase, but she had concerns about the easement from Union Street to the Jomat parcel. Her husband and Mr. DeCastro shared those concerns. They noted that access over the easement would be hazardous because of the location on Union Street. Mrs. Toucey noted that the easement is overgrown and because of wetlands a culvert or boardwalk would be necessary to provide access. Committee members responded that it was the intention of the Town to access the property from the Little Conservation parking area and not over the existing easement abutting their properties. Mrs. Toucey expressed a desire to have the easement abandoned. CC inquired if they would contribute to the purchase price to remove the easement. KO responded that the Committee had no authority over that and that Town Counsel would have to be consulted. The Touceys and Mr. DeCastro shared their experiences with and treatment by the present landowner and contractors. Mr. Toucey described a 12-13 year legal battle. They also gave the Committee some historical background surrounding the process of permitting the building lot and agreements with the present landowner with regard to payment of taxes on the portion of the Toucey's land containing the easement and asked how the Town would handle that. KO again referred the abutters to Town Counsel. There was a discussion of trails on the property and how they would connect with trails from the Little and Riverwalk conservation areas. The Touceys and Mr. DeCastro have had problems with people walking through their properties thinking that they are within the easement. It was suggested that they put up No Trespassing signs to protect their privacy. Any trail work by the Town on the Jomat property after purchase would be marked. At

this point, the Touceys and Mr. DeCastro stated their support of the purchase by the Town and left the meeting. KO provided the Committee with a brief summary of her power point presentation for Special Town Meeting. She is very hopeful that we will be successful with our LAND grant application. We should expect to hear about the grant by mid to late November.

- Pratt
 - KO reported that the AAB board had met on September 20. They wanted more information on our variance request and had scheduled a public hearing for November 30 at 3 pm. Rocco had informed KO that he and Attorney Galvin will attend and asked that she provide them with photos. Rocco did not think that Pat Brennan needed to attend. TW stated that Pat should be there. SM asked about what additional information AAB was seeking. KO thought that they wanted to see more visuals of the project and to be able to ask questions about the project in more detail. All members present agreed that Pat Brennan, as engineer and project manager, has the best working knowledge of the property and project and would be the best person to attend and represent our interests. KO will inform Rocco of our strong desire to have Pat attend the hearing.

KO made a motion at 8:21 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. TW seconded. Roll call vote: TW yes, VM yes, CH yes, BS yes, SM yes, CC yes and KO yes.

Submitted by Karen O'Donnell