

# APPROVED

## Town of Grantham Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes December 3, 2015

Allen Wilson called the Open Space Committee meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. in the Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH 03753.

### Members Present:

Thain Allan, Chair (Joined the meeting later)  
Allen Wilson, Vice Chair  
Craig McArt, Secretary  
Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair  
Charlie McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair (Joined the meeting later)  
Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Commission

### Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 3 meeting was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Frey.

*Unanimously Approved*

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Vice Chair Wilson mentioned the need for the Committee to provide a summary of its accomplishments for the Town's Annual Report. It was felt that Chairman Allan should accomplish this based on the executive summary that he prepared for his presentation to the Select Board.

In order to focus the business of the day, Mr. McArt passed out copies of a draft outline he prepared for an Open Space Protection Plan that would be submitted by the Committee for inclusion in the Town Master Plan. Members discussed the outline for the duration of the meeting, making additions and adjustments that resulted in the following:

#### GRANTHAM OPEN SPACE PROTECTION PLAN DRAFT OUTLINE

### **Background:**

1. Open Space Committee
  - How, why and when it came into being
  - Its composition
  - Its charge
2. Open Space Inventory
  - Parcel descriptions
  - Parcel map (being enhanced and digitized by UVLSRPC as an appendix addendum)
  - Key findings

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### **The Plan:**

1. Definition of open space
  - Undeveloped land
  - Farms and fields
  - Forests
  - Bodies of water and wetlands
  - Parks
2. Importance of open space
  - Preservation of rural character
  - Recreation
  - Wildlife habitat
  - Clean water (cite recent emphasis by SB-388 legislative report)
  - Biodiversity (explain current emphasis)
3. Prioritization of open space (cite importance of unfragmented areas and being contiguous with conserved land)
  - Western corridor
  - Northern area bordering Enfield's Henry Laramie Wildlife Management Area
  - Southwest
  - Aquifer
4. Acquisition of open space
  - Purchase by the town (Current Use changes and warrant articles)
  - Cooperation with land trust organizations
  - Grants
5. Protection of open space
  - Current Use designation
  - Ownership by private organizations for conservation or recreation purposes, but not legally protected for these purposes (Blue Mtn. Forest Assoc., ECA)
  - Conservation easement
  - Zoning
6. Engagement of the community
  - Educational outreach
  - Create hiking trails
  - Create trails map
  - Create trailhead parking

Members of the Committee agreed to individually develop text for sections of the outline as follows:

**Background** Mr. Allan 1 & 2

**The Plan** Ms. Buchanan 1 & 2, Mr. Wilson 3, Mr. Allan 4, Mr. Frey 5, Mr. McArt 6

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. McArt and seconded by Mr. Frey to adjourn the meeting at 10:25.

***Unanimously Approved***

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on January 7, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig McArt,  
Secretary