

APPROVED
Town of Grantham
Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2015

Thain Allan called the Open Space Committee meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. in the Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH 03753.

Members Present:

Thain Allan, Chair

Allen Wilson, Vice Chair

Craig McArt, Secretary

Charlie McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair

Members Absent:

Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Committee

Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair

Members of the Public: None

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 8 meeting was made by Mr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wilson.

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

None

New Business

Messrs. Allan, Wilson and McArt discussed their progress in completing the parcel inventory forms each had been assigned. They determined that all could be completed in another week. There was concern over what progress Ms. Buchanan had been able to make on her assignment of parcels. Mr. Allen said he would check with her to find out and to see if she would need help. There will be an effort to complete the parcel inventory by next week's special meeting on February 12. Mr. Allen suggested that six or seven sets of copies be made.

Turning the discussion to the special meeting on the 12th when Grantham Conservation Commissioner Sheridan Brown will be a guest, the committee addressed the matter of an agenda. While explaining what the committee has done in regard to mapping and inventorying Grantham's undeveloped parcels over 10 acres, it would be important to explain how the information was gathered and how it might be used. Mr. McArt referred to the working paper he prepared for the committee condensing the SB388 Report on the current status of land conservation in New Hampshire and the State's role in encouraging voluntary protection of land in the future. The committee's inclusion of high yield aquifer proximity as a category in the inventory and mapping was confirmed by the report, which stressed the importance of safeguarding sources of potential drinking water from development. The two maps the committee produced will reveal, in addition to the location of Grantham's high yield aquifer, where highest ranked wildlife habitat as determined in the state's Wildlife Action Plan can be found and what degree of conservation protection the various parcels have.

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The committee will ask Mr. Brown for his input on ways the information gathered might be categorized or presented so as to maximize its usefulness. Mr. Allan said he planned to write a summary to accompany the inventory, realizing that it could be used in the new Town Master Plan. He emphasized his desire that the work of the committee, if it progresses into a prioritization phase, would remain factual and not judgmental. The committee will offer Mr. Brown its willingness to make a presentation of its work to the Conservation Commission in the near future. After obtaining feedback from the Conservation Commission, the committee would report to the Select Board.

Mr. Wilson donated a pack of roll labels to be used in identifying the rolled maps in the Town's collection, which is stored in the back of the Jerry Whitney Conference Room.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Unanimously Approved

A special meeting of the Open Space Committee will take place on February 12, 2015 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at the Town Hall. The next regular Open Space Committee meeting will take place on March 5, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig McArt,
Secretary