

# **APPROVED**

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

Thain Allan called the Open Space Committee meeting to order at 8:30 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  
Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Commission  
Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair  
Charlie McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair

Members Absent: None

### Guest members of the Grantham Conservation Commission:

Laura Nagy, Dick Hocker, Dave Wood

Members of the Public: None

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 6 meeting with changes in the wording of two sentences was made by Chairman Allan.

***Unanimously Approved***

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Chairman Allan outlined an agenda for presentation of the Committee's Open Space Inventory at the upcoming September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Select Board in which it has been allotted a half-hour. Roughly half the time would be used to describe methodology and what was done. The other half would address the next steps to be taken.

Regarding the open space inventory, Mr. Allen said he would add a slide showing the percentage of both conserved property and conserved acreage in the town. He would also add a slide comparing the amount of conserved land in Grantham with that of other towns. Ms. Nagy wondered if the presentation could be made available on the Town's website. It was noted that results from the survey probing the community's impressions of rural character aspects recently distributed to the community by the Master Plan Committee would not be available in time to be included in the presentation.

With respect to the next steps to be taken, there was agreement that the Committee should first ask the Select Board whether it would consider modifying the second part of its charge –

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substituting the development of an Open Space Protection Plan in place of the prioritizing of parcels. The plan would be included in the updated Grantham Master Plan now being composed. The matter of prioritization would be dealt with by identifying large areas where future development could compromise wildlife habitat and corridors, recreation opportunities, scenic vistas or clean water resources. Where specific information needs to be obtained by on-site visitation of restricted property, landowner permission would be required.

What the Committee recommends for the future advancement of open space conservation in Grantham would conclude the presentation. Discussion focused on the composition and organization of an appropriate instrument for this purpose. There was agreement that the present committee could either disband or be reconstituted under one or another aegis – reporting directly to the Select Board or, perhaps, as a subgroup of the Conservation Committee.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Frey and seconded by Ms. Buchanan to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

***Unanimously Approved***

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on October 1, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig McArt,  
Secretary