

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes October 1, 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
Charlie McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair

Members Absent:

Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Commission
Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair

Members of the Public: None

Approval of Minutes

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

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

The September 23 presentation of the recently completed Grantham Open Space Inventory that the Open Space Committee made to the Select Board was briefly reviewed.

New Business

Mr. Allan opened discussion of the Committee's next responsibility: to develop an Open Space Protection Plan for inclusion in the Grantham Master Plan. He is serving on the Grantham Master Plan Committee. Mr. McArt shared the following draft outline he prepared for review:

GRANTHAM OPEN SPACE PROTECTION PLAN DRAFT OUTLINE

1. The Open Space Committee believes that a key to protecting open space in Grantham is engagement of the community in activities that build awareness and appreciation of open space in the town through active exposure to its attributes.

- Develop a GPS-compatible Grantham trails map with assistance from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.
 - This map could be downloaded from the town website onto one's smartphone.
 - It would require a volunteer effort to obtain GPX tracking of the trails for input.
 - GPX tracks are already available for all Eastman trails.

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- Promote, schedule and conduct a series of community hikes on trails through open space areas in Grantham.
 - A cadre of volunteer hike leaders could be organized and trained.
 - Permission to hike through private property, not under Current Use recreation designation, could be obtained in writing.
- Build trailhead parking at specified locations that would provide access to open space in Grantham.
 - A list of potential locations could be developed with input from the Highway Department.
 - The Highway Department could issue RFPs for selected projects.

2. Establish partnerships with regional conservation land trusts that have expertise and experience in approaching landowners and negotiating arrangements for the purpose of securing conservation easements to protect open space.

- Contact the Upper Valley Land Trust
- Contact the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
- Contact the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

3. Develop programs of educational outreach designed to involve the community in open space issues and projects.

- Begin with programs that could be offered to the school, scouts and Youth Conservation Corps.
- Reach adults through parental involvement in youth projects.

In discussing this outline, Mr. Wilson brought up the initiative proposed by David Wood of the Conservation Commission: to raise funds through bonds or notes for the purpose of purchasing land to protect the Town's rural character and natural resources by conserving land. All agreed that this should be included in the plan and that Mr. Wood should be contacted for further input.

Michael McCrory of the Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, who is consulting for the Town on the update of its Master Plan, will be invited to the Committee's next meeting. Mr. Allan, who would not be able to attend at the Committee's normal time, will attempt to schedule the meeting for early in the first week of November after determining everyone's availability.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. McArt and seconded by Mr. McCarthy to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Unanimously Approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig McArt,
Secretary