

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes January 7, 2016

Thain Allan called the Open Space Committee meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. in the Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH 03753.

Members Present:

Thain Allan, Chair
Craig McArt, Secretary
Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair
Charlie McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair
Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Commission

Member not attending:

Allen Wilson, Vice Chair

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 2 meeting was made by Chairman Allan and seconded by Ms. Buchanan.

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

None

New Business

Following the outline agreed upon in the December meeting, members reviewed text distributed for sections of the committee's Open Space Protection Plan drafted by Mr. Allan, Mr. Frey and Mr. McArt per assignment. Another section assigned to Mr. Allan as well as ones assigned to Mr. Wilson and Ms. Buchanan were not available. Mr. Allan asked that all text sections be sent to him electronically in Word so that he could integrate them per the outline into a complete draft of the plan for the next meeting in February. The draft will be reviewed at that time prior to final submission to the town's Master Plan Committee in March.

There was discussion about "current use designation," and how the landowners who withdraw their properties (or a portion thereof) from current use must pay penalty fees, which are added to the Town's Conservation Fund. There was some uncertainty about the specific details, and it was agreed that the committee should track down the information to better understand and describe the situation. The Committee members also discussed the need for the Open Space Protection Plan to recognize and address the Town's properties with "ownership by private organizations for conservation purposes, but not legally protected for these purposes (Blue Mtn. Forest Assoc., ECA)," given the significant portion of the Town's open space that is covered by such parcels.

APPROVED

The section in the plan dealing with acquisition of open space, to be composed by Mr. Allan, will include “cooperation with land trust organizations.” After discussing how the committee wished to approach these groups for input, Mr. Allan said he would check with Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning and also with Merle Schotanus for advice. Mr. Allan said he wished to extend invitations to representatives of the groups, Ausbon Sargent, Upper Valley Land Trust and Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to get them on the committee’s calendar.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. McArt and seconded by Mr. McCarthy to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Unanimously Approved

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on February 4, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig McArt,
Secretary