

# **APPROVED**

**Town of Grantham  
Open Space Committee  
(OSC)  
March 6, 2014  
Minutes**

Grantham Conservation Commission representative Susan Buchanan called the meeting to order at 8:39 p.m. Thursday, March 6, 2014 in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room located at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH 03753.

Present: Allen (Al) Wilson; Thain Allan; Craig McArt; and Grantham Conservation Commission representative Susan (Sue) Buchanan.

New members present that were selected by the Board of Selectmen as representatives were Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair Conrad Frey; Planning Board Vice-Chair Charles (Charley) McCarthy and appointed clerk Martha Norris.

Members of the Public: None

## **Approval of Minutes**

S. Buchanan stated there were some incomplete sentences that were left out of the first meeting minutes of February 6, 2014 on page one (1); third (3) paragraph to read: "We all agreed unanimously that we would ask the Town of Grantham to assign a staff person to take on note-taking responsibility for future meetings, to better enable all of us Members to fully participate in the meetings". Page three (3); sixth (6) paragraph down; last sentence to read: "Examples of "rural character" might include scenic views from the property, view of property from the road, open agricultural lands, open fields, etc."

S. Buchanan then asked Clerk Norris to now read the changes of additional wording to the members. S. Buchanan asked the members if there were any further changes to be made, there being none motion was made by Craig McArt and second Allen Wilson to approve the minutes as written. C. McCarthy abstained since he was not present at the meeting.

***Unanimously Approved***

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### New Business

S. Buchanan thanked T. Allan for forwarding information to her via email with regards to another area town's information on "Open Space Categories" and asked Clerk Norris to make copies and hand out to members.

T. Allen stated that he had been in contact with Rachel Ruppel of the "Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission" and she has been helpful with sending via email information of seven (7) area towns' inventories that she actually had participated in creating. Both A. Wilson and C. McArt said they also had been researching information to help with this committee from surrounding towns of Grantham.

A. Wilson spoke of recently being in contact with Clerk Norris and requesting some assistance with doing some copying of town maps and requests for supplies needed for the newly established committee, and Clerk Norris had informed him that Town Administrator Melissa White had said the Selectmen's office would be happy to assist them in any way they could with copying/supplies.

C. McCarthy asked if anyone had any input with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission's Staff that helps communities with situations like this. C. McArt said that they should try and get R. Ruppel for their next meeting to go over some of this information the committee has gathered and help with suggestions/information she might have. T. Allen stated that he had met with R. Ruppel this past Tuesday and is aware they (UVLSRPC) have the GIS applications for mapping and super imposing the mapping criteria that the Open Space Committee desires and she had also worked on a project in Eastman.

T. Allen shared further conversation he had with R. Ruppel with the members.

C. McCarthy commented that possibly M. White would also be able to give the committee some input on this subject, and that she had been very helpful in the past for him.

C. Frey suggested that zoning should be ex-officiated. That zoning states what you can do with the land and would like to help, but would like to know what the purpose of this committee was. C. Frey reminded the committee the issues that

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came about when the Grantham Conservation Commission had the wetlands project and the surrounding events that came out of it. Further discussion ensued amongst committee members on this subject.

S. Buchanan went on to explain that the committee's official charge is to create an inventory of open space areas in town and prioritize them. Unlike the situation with designation of prime wetlands, the open space assessment would not impose regulations on anyone's property; it would simply identify parcels that would be of interest for the town to acquire if the land were put up for sale.

C. McArt stated that he wasn't concerned about the regulations that it seemed to be a more direct way to go about the areas that are prime open space such as corridors that go through the land, and at the same time A. Wilson mentioned that it would be like block areas that are large tracks of land that is contiguous and/or corridors not interrupted by roads that would be helpful with documentation.

C. McArt said that once the committee gets these large areas of land mapped with the different identifying colors as to what type of land it is and then overlay them on the parcels, make a list of the different characteristics they would have better understanding of which parcels are prime open space and which ones are not. S. Buchanan felt that would be valuable information identifying corridors and something that the committee would consider and support.

Both C. Frey and C. McCarthy also discussed the making of the 2005 Master Plan for the town of Grantham and how the 10 year plan is coming due in 2015 since both the Planning Board and Zoning Board are involved. They also discussed land that is in current use as opposed to land that is not.

The Committee at this time discussed what they have to do to go forward would be to develop a list of things they are going to need. S. Buchanan stated that she would like to see what the town could provide before bringing in R. Ruppel.

T. Allen said they could do a proposal for a meeting with R. Ruppel that would be of no charge. S. Buchanan stated that the desire would be to have the inventory completed by the next master plan. C. McCarthy stated that the Planning Board

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has not yet scheduled themselves for the next master plan and it will probably be another year or so before completion.

S. Buchanan stated the final charge they were asked to do in all of this and the divine purpose is for this committee to map and inventory all open space land, undeveloped land 10 acres or more and then to prioritize the land that is most critical to preserving the rural character of Grantham.

Further conversation ensued with committee members.

### **Other**

A. Wilson had done some research on the topic of "Open Space Plan" from other areas in New Hampshire as did T. Allan and asked Clerk Norris to make copies and hand out to the members.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Adjournment**

Representative Buchanan asked the members if there were any further discussion. There being none motion was made by Susan Buchanan and second Charley McCarthy to adjourn the meeting at 10:50a.m.

***Unanimously Approved***

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on April 3, 2014 at 8:30a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha M. Norris  
Clerk