

**Town of Grantham  
Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 6, 2014**

Craig McArt called the Open Space Committee meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. in the Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH 03753.

Members Present: Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Committee; Allen Wilson, Thain Allan and Craig McArt

Absent: Charlie McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair; Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair

Members of the Public: None

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of October 2, 2014 meeting: Allen Wilson suggested that the second paragraph on p. 2 be modified to include the fact that the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act does not apply to ponds under 10 acres. He also recommended that the spelling “damned” in the same paragraph be changed to “dammed” as it applied to Eastman Lake. Sue Buchanan recommended that the phrase “suggested trying” in the last paragraph on p. 3 be changed to “became aware of.” She also recommended adding, “that can be made available” referring to Survey Monkey on the Town’s web site in the first paragraph on p. 4. Furthermore, she advised that an additional sentence be added at the end of that paragraph stating, “The committee was in agreement that a survey would not be implemented at this time.” There being no further corrections or additions, a motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Buchanan to approve the minutes as amended.

***Approved with one abstention***

**Old Business**

Craig McArt displayed his map showing the types of conservation protection afforded parcels in Grantham exceeding 10 acres, which the committee asked him to have printed and laminated. A question as to whether the Town’s information indicating that Merton Hastings Jr.’s parcel 206-2 had no current use status had come up in the Oct. 2 meeting. It was subsequently settled by Wilson who checked the Sullivan County Registry of Deeds and found the parcel mistakenly included together with another 200+ acre parcel. Thain Allan recommended that the Town be informed of this in order to update its record of current use parcels. The color-coding of the property was changed to “Current Use” before the map was printed.

At the Oct. 2 meeting, McArt had offered to see if a 2010 NH Fish & Game Wildlife Action Plan map showing Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Region could be overlaid with the Town parcel map. If so, it would be helpful in the inventory and analysis of individual parcel’s features. He said that he had talked to Town Administrator Melissa White about it and she was able to obtain the combined map from Fish & Game at no cost. After examining and discussing the map, the committee asked McArt to request that Administrator White make the digital file of the map available to each member. The committee also instructed him to have the map laminated.

The committee discussed the poor condition of the Town’s map storage that exists in the room behind the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room. Wilson said he had a large box

with divisions in it that would be perfect for organizing and protecting the maps. He promised to bring it to the next meeting.

McArt then passed around a binder titled Open Space Inventory of Grantham Land Parcels Exceeding 10 Acres. In it were several examples he had developed of individual parcel inventories by categories as established in the Oct. 2 meeting. The committee decided that if the task of completing these inventories were divided among its members, it could deliver a complete, validated collection by March. Allan requested that each member bring a laptop to the December 4 meeting so that they could follow instruction from McArt on how to use a template he has for the inventory forms. McArt was asked to come up with a way to divide up the assignments by that time as well.

### **New Business**

The committee was reminded that it had postponed selection of its officers during the several months that Allan was unable to attend meetings. McArt had already volunteered at the outset of the meeting to be Secretary. At this point Allan volunteered to be Chair and Wilson volunteered to be Vice Chair. Sue Buchanan then nominated Thain Allen as Chair, Al Wilson as Vice Chair and Craig McArt as Secretary. Her motion to approve the slate was seconded by Wilson.

***Unanimously Approved***

Buchanan said that she learned recently from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions that the committee of lawmakers formed last spring under SB 388 had just delivered its 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. She promised to send members a PDF file or a web site link to the report.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Sue Buchanan and seconded by Allen Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

***Unanimously Approved***

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on December 4, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig McArt  
Secretary