

**APPROVED**  
**Town of Grantham**  
**Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 8, 2015**

Thain Allan called the Open Space Committee meeting to order at 8:45 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

Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair

Charlie McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair

Members Absent: Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Committee

Members of the Public: None

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 4 meeting was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. McCarthy.

*Unanimously Approved*

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

There was discussion of the report from the committee of lawmakers formed last spring under SB 388 on the current status of land conservation in New Hampshire and the State's role in encouraging voluntary protection of land in the future. Most felt, having read it, that it was overly wordy and not germane to the committee's task. Mr. McArt countered that he felt it emphasized topics such as sustainability, biodiversity and water quality that would prove relevant when it came to prioritizing open space in the second phase of the Open Space Committee's assigned task. He mentioned that aquifer proximity had been included as a category on the committee's parcel inventory form in anticipation of the report's emphasis on drinking water. He also said that LCHIP funds, which aided open space preservation in other communities in the past, have dried up or been diverted and that the term "rural character," which had been emphasized in the past, was not used in the report. Mr. McArt offered to produce a working paper condensing information in the report pertinent to the committee's task for future discussion. The committee agreed that this would be helpful in the prioritizing phase of its task.

Mr. Allan turned attention to the completion of parcel inventory forms, which had been assigned to four members of the committee. Discussion focused first on whether or not parcels with dwellings on them should be included in the concept of undeveloped land. Mr. Wilson maintained that would be contrary to the committee's charge. Others pointed out that farms, or former farms, might be important candidates for open space protection despite the fact that they included a dwelling or other buildings. Mr. Allan then confirmed, upon looking up the charge, that it referred to open space as defined in the Master Plan as undeveloped land, which may include farms and farm buildings, open fields and croplands.

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The members who completed the forms shared their experiences in identifying and entering information on the forms. They covered the listed categories on the forms one by one, agreeing to be as consistent as possible in the scope and language of their entries. In view of this, they decided to revise entries on their forms as necessary and bring them in printed format to the February meeting. The complete collection of inventory forms, covering all the designated parcels, would be then copied for the full committee's final review prior to completion at the March meeting. Mr. Allan said he would call Ms. Buchanan to fill her in on what was expected.

The following information, so far as possible, would be entered for consistency:

Indicate if there are domiciles and outbuildings in the parcel description.

Delete "farms" from the farms and fields category and estimate the % of fields in the parcel.

Estimate the % of woodlands in the parcel and indicate whether softwood, hardwood or mixed.

Estimate the % of the parcel in each wildlife classification and its location.

Estimate the relative size and location of ponds in the parcel.

Estimate the size and location of streams and rivers on the parcel, naming them if possible.

Estimate the % of wetlands on the parcel.

Express heights of hills in meters.

Describe scenic vistas if possible.

Describe location of trails and Class VI roads and include names if available.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Frey to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

***Unanimously Approved***

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on February 5, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig McArt,  
Secretary