

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes April 9, 2015

Allen Wilson 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:

Allen Wilson, Vice Chair
Craig McArt, Secretary
Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Commission
Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair

Members Absent:

Thain Allan, Chair
Charlie McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair

Members of the Public: None

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 5 meeting was made by Mr. Frey and seconded by Mr. Wilson.

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

None

New Business

The Committee discussed preparations for the upcoming meeting with the Conservation Commission, that meeting scheduled for May 18. In regard to the number of parcel inventory copies that would be needed, it was determined that two sets would be sufficient. One set would need to be 3-hole punched and inserted in the binder.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Chairman Allan's draft of the executive summary and Excel worksheets that he prepared for the meeting. Mr. Frey took issue with the use code designations, claiming that they would be meaningless to most readers. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the term "open space," which he thought warranted a different name because it included forested land. The term "deliverables" bothered him as being a cliché and did not specify what was being delivered. He questioned the inclusion of municipal land, as well as conserved parcels, in the inventory. The New Hampshire Fish and Game's Wildlife Action Plan Map, which was used for inventorying wildlife habitat and corridors, did not seem representative of wildlife distribution in his opinion. He noted that the zone classification for Gray Ledges 232-001 needs to be corrected from R to RR1. Ms. Buchanan suggested that the term "over 10 acres" be changed to "10 acres or more." She questioned the use of future tense in portions of the draft and found consensus in changing all to past tense. Returning to the term "deliverables," she recommended changing the sentence structure to use a verb: "deliver" or "produce."

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Mr. McArt recommended that the spreadsheets be included in the binder with the parcel inventories as an appendix. He then introduced his expansion of the Open Space Committee report drafted by Mr. Allan. The appended portion of the report questioned the advisability of the Committee carrying out its second charge, namely, to *prioritize* Grantham's open space parcels. He pointed out that this task was not included in the Conservation Commission's original proposal for the formation of an Open Space Committee. Instead, development of a formal Open Space Protection Plan to be included in the Grantham Master Plan was recommended. The Committee agreed that it was important to include the committee's sentiments about this in the report.

After reviewing a slide program that Mr. McArt prepared for Mr. Allan to use in making his presentation, the Committee discussed the need to meet once before taking its report to the Conservation Commission and then to the Select Board. Mr. Wilson said he would contact Mr. Allan to confirm a time when he would be available.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. McArt and seconded by Ms. Buchanan to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Unanimously Approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig McArt,
Secretary