

APPROVED

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

Thain Allan 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:

Thain Allan, Chair

Allen Wilson, Vice Chair

Craig McArt, Secretary

Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair

Charlie McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair

Member Absent: Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Commission

Members of the Public: None

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 1 meeting was made by Mr. McCarthy and seconded by Mr. Frey.

Unanimously Approved

Old Business

The proposed dragonfly event at Stocker Pond offered by Andy and Carrie Deegan for this summer and sponsored by the Open Space Committee has been canceled with the suggestion that it might be held in conjunction with the Town's 250th anniversary celebration.

New Business

Mr. McArt procured from NH Fish & Game the 2015 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition, Grantham Scoring map overlaid with our Town Parcels map by CAI Technologies. He asked for permission to have the map laminated so that it can be added to the Town's map collection. He said that he would place a note in the Open Space Inventory book explaining that this update with significant changes to the 2010 map referenced in the process of inventorying individual parcels was available in the map collection behind the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Allan opened a discussion about the status of the Committee. He reported that in a conversation he had with Sheridan Brown, the selectman said that the Open Space Committee might be one of the conduits to acquire open space in Grantham. Mr. Brown felt that it would be a long-range effort during which the Open Space Committee or the Conservation Commission would put on an open forum. Mr. Wilson expressed doubts about the Committee's purpose and where it would fit in. Mr. McArt said that he thought the Committee had fulfilled its charge, having completed the Open Space Inventory and the Open Space Protection Plan. He felt that redundancy in the roles of the Open Space Committee and the Conservation Commission was beginning to show, as evidenced in the current Brookside Park open space project initiated and spearheaded by the Conservation Commission.

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Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Allan suggested that the Committee might invite Mr. Brown to meet again with the Committee to discuss the issue. Mr. Frey maintained that priorities one, two and three for open space acquisition were funding, funding and funding. Mr. McArt said that he thought that while the Committee should be dissolved, any members who were interested in continuing their involvement in open space issues could offer to participate on the Conservation Commission, where Ms. Buchanan was already advocating for open space protection initiatives. The sense of the group was that the Select Board should be informed of the Committee's desire to disband having successfully completed its task. Mr. Allan said that he would draft a letter to the Select Board expressing the Committee's determination, and hold a final meeting of the group to review and approve it.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. McArt and seconded by Mr. McCarthy to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Unanimously Approved

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig McArt,
Secretary