

**APPROVED**  
**Town of Grantham**  
**Open Space Committee**  
**(OSC)**  
**June 12, 2014**  
**Minutes**

The Open Space Committee came to order at 8:40 a.m. June 12, 2014 in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room located at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH 03753.

Members Present: Conrad Frey, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair; Craig McArt; Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Commission and Charles (Charlie) McCarthy, Planning Board Vice Chair.

Absent: Thain Allan and Allen Wilson.

Members of the public: Dave Wood, Grantham Conservation Commissioner

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of April 3, 2014 meeting: S. Buchanan stated there was a typo error on page one (1) last paragraph. There being no further corrections motion was made by Craig McArt and second Sue Buchanan to approve the minutes as amended.

***Unanimously Approved***

Minutes of May 1, 2014 meeting: Corrections on page one (1); third paragraph down C. McCarthy wanted it known that “medical leave” was the reason for him not attending that meeting. Page three (3) fourth paragraph down to be deleted per S. Buchanan and C. McCarthy.

S.Buchanan asked if there were any further changes to be made, there being none motion was made by Craig McArt and second Conrad Frey to approve the minutes as amended.

***Unanimously Approved***

## APPROVED

### New Business

#### ***Warrant for a Bond for Purchase of Conservation Land:***

S. Buchanan introduced Dave Wood of the Grantham Conservation Commission to the members.

D. Wood stated that he was here to open up a conversation with them regarding funding for the warrant articles for the Open Space that the Grantham Conservation Commission had applied for and been turned down at the last town meeting and proceeded to hand out the information he had researched to members. D. Wood said that he approached the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and asked if there were any precedent for towns issuing/having a warrant article which gives the Selectmen an opportunity to issue a bond in the amount at the time it's needed to purchase open space, and it turns out there is. D. Wood reiterated that at least 11 other New Hampshire towns have done this. After explaining some of his ideas along with the information passed out, he asked if this was something they would support. At this time members discussed their thoughts on this subject matter.

D. Wood said that he already spoke to each of the Selectmen on separate occasions as to their suggestions. He also contacted Nick Coates, Chair of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions who has volunteered to come and speak to the boards, as well as Jim Raynes from Rye, NH, who was involved in two (2) successful open space warrant articles himself. He invited them to come and sit in for a session with the Open Space Committee, Planning Board and Conservation Commission sometime at the end of August or early September. D. Wood said that after this session they would like to take the next step before Town Meeting 2015 if possible and have an open forum discussion to present a warrant to the towns' people as to why purchasing open space is a good thing (i.e., open space keeps the town's tax burden down compared to developed, residential space).

Further discussion ensued among the members regarding warrant articles, bonds, the Master Plan updates for 2015 and monies that are currently available in the Conservation Commission Fund.

D. Wood thanked the Committee for their time.

## **APPROVED**

### **Old Business**

#### ***Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair:***

C. McCarthy motioned that with two (2) members absent from today's meeting, the appointment of chair and vice-chair will be postponed until the August 7, 2014 meeting.

***Unanimously Approved***

### **June Agenda Discussion**

#### ***Funding from Grantham Conservation Commission to fund OSC Initiative:***

S. Buchanan stated that she looked into funding for the Open Space Committee at this time and found out that the Conservation Commission does have funds set aside in their budget for the amount of \$3,000.00 and (to her knowledge) the town is not allocating additional funds. S. Buchanan said that the monies would be used for potentially hiring Rachel Ruppel of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) to do the mapping for the Open Space Committee's assessment.

#### ***Possible reimplement of survey for 2015 Master Plan:***

S. Buchanan continued with regards to the Master Plan of 2005 and the community surveys that were done at that time and debated if worth repeating this process again 10 years later; the committee members generally agreed that it would, but felt that the OSC did not have time nor a budget to re-implement that survey. She questioned if the town going to re-implement this survey for the 2015 update of the Master Plan and, if so, when. She mentioned she had contacted Town Administrator Melissa White and Planning Board Vice Chair Charlie McCarthy via email with her question and had not yet heard back from either of them. C. McCarthy said he had received the email.

C. Frey spoke of the Master Plan Committee of 2005 of which he was a part along with Kevin Carey and Kristina Burgard who put a lot of time and effort into this study. He indicated that it is the Master Plan Committee not the Town Administrator or the Planning Board that decides on the scope of the plan. He continued that there have been a lot of demographic changes in Grantham since 2005 and he felt there should be some changes made to the Master Plan for 2015.

## APPROVED

C. McCarthy stated he would be in contact with Carl Hanson, Planning Board Chair, to inquire about the OSC's questions.

### ***Prioritization of Qualities of Rural Character/Open Space:***

S. Buchanan read from the Master Plan of 2005; page A-3, Appearance of Community/Rural Character/Open Spaces to refer the members to the qualities of Open Space that the Town included in the 2005 survey (e.g. Farmlands; Ecological Features; Scenic Areas; Recreation Areas to name a few). S. Buchanan suggested that these qualities could be proportionally weighted based on the townspeople's survey responses indicating what they value as open space, and a scoring system based on these could be applied for the assessment of the town's open space parcels.

S. Buchanan said that one thing the OSC discussed that might be missing was Cultural and Historical Resources that C. McArt had identified on the mapping he had been working on and was not sure where this would fall into place.

C. McCarthy asked how they would apply/combine their scoring values to this list. S. Buchanan said that she felt ultimately it would be hard to without having some subjectivity.

C. McArt stated that there are maps online and he had plans of doing one more map and went on to explain he had come across some information that former Grantham Conservation Commission member Merle Schotanus did with respect to the status of ownership and current use information to help with the mapping project requirements. C. McArt said that it would be helpful to the committee if they could get Mr. Schotanus to attend a meeting. All members agreed that if Mr. Schotanus was available they would welcome him. At this time Clerk Norris informed the members there were some maps belonging to the Conservation Commission that were accessible and possibly helpful and proceeded to display a few of them to the members.

## **APPROVED**

### **Adjournment**

Conrad Frey asked the members if there were any further discussion. There being none, motion was made by Charles (Charlie) McCarthy and seconded by Craig McArt to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

***Unanimously Approved***

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on July 3, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha M. Norris  
Clerk