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**Town of Grantham
Open Space Committee
(OSC)
May 1, 2014**

Grantham Conservation Commission representative Susan Buchanan called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Thursday, May 1, 2014 in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference room located at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH 03753.

Present: Members Craig McArt; Thain Allan; Allen Wilson and Representative Susan Buchanan, Grantham Conservation Commission and Clerk Martha Norris.

Absent: Charles McCarthy, Planning Board Representative due to medical leave and Conrad Frey, Zoning Board Representative. Clerk Norris did state that C. Frey had contacted her and stated that he would be a little late due to an earlier commitment.

Members of the public: None

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March 6, 2014 meeting: Corrections on page three (3); second (2nd) paragraph, first (1st) line through the sixth (6th) line to read: S. Buchanan went on to “explain that the committee’s official charge is to create an inventory of open space areas in town and prioritize them. Unlike the situation with designation of prime wetlands, the open space assessment would not impose regulations on anyone’s property; it would simply identify parcels that would be of interest for the town to acquire if the land were put up for sale.”

S. Buchanan asked if there were any further changes to be made, there being none motion was made by Thain Allan and second Allen Wilson to approve the minutes as written.

Unanimously Approved

Minutes of April 3, 2014 meeting: To be tabled until the next meeting on June 5, 2014.

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S. Buchanan asked Clerk Norris what the difference was between the sworn in members and Selectmen representatives of different boards, referring to the minutes of April where it was mentioned there was not a quorum present. Clerk Norris stated that she would discuss the matter with Town Administrator Melissa White.

New Business

S. Buchanan asked Clerk Norris if there had been any hand outs at the April meeting and Norris stated there were items of interest given her by C. McArt and that copies were on the tables for each member present.

C. McArt explained the handouts as followed - that the Wildlife Committee at Eastman is embarking on a program identifying open space greater than 10 acres for monitoring, and large parcels greater than 30 acres will be developed into forest management plans and the smaller ones would then be monitored by the Eastman board unless a problem should come up they would bring in a forester to investigate a problem. McArt said that these monitors would be trained to understand invasive plants/insects. A. Wilson wanted to know if there was a way to incorporate the areas that are open space grants, especially along the lake. C. McArt said that what are included in this, are retired lots that are contiguous. S. Buchanan; A. Wilson and C. McArt further discussed information regarding Eastman's monitoring plans.

T. Allan also mentioned that there should not be any difference between Eastman and Grantham with regards to monitoring these lands and that open space was open space.

C. McArt mentioned that when it comes time to mapping these areas they need to include all open space parcels and he felt the different categories of current use parcels should be included as well. C. McArt said he had asked Town Administrator Melissa White to send him a list of current use properties broken down into categories which consisted of Farm lands; types of trees on the property and productive or non-productive land etc.. The list will be completed soon and eventually copies for members will be handed out at that time. McArt said he was trying to find out about these parcels in order to "code"

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them on the map. A. Wilson explained to the members his knowledge of the different taxation brackets for current use land pertaining to the different categories listed. S. Buchanan asked if the town has a map showing land/properties in current use. C. McArt said he had made one. At this time Clerk Norris said that she had given a large copy of a town map to C. McArt who in turn colored in different areas himself, and proceeded to display the map so he could explain the different colored areas and his definition of each to the members. T. Allan; S. Buchanan and the rest of the members further discussed the subject of current use and of its possible importance to the mapping project. C. McArt mentioned he was able to put this map together by using *PowerPoint* and *WORDdoc*.

The members all commented what a nice job C. McArt had done with this map.

Conversation continued with S. Buchanan reading aloud from previous information received for the Open Space Committee as to what their “purpose” is to protecting the rural character of Grantham. At this time all members voiced their opinions with regards to current uses and types of parcels that should be added on to maps that will be designed in the near future possibly by Rachel Ruppel of the UVLSRPC.

T. Allan mentioned that he had given a proposal from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) to the Grantham Conservation Committee (GCC) to let them know what they would do to assist them with the Open Space Committee project. T. Allan also stated that if the Open Space Committee were going to seek any kind of direction or professional help, funding will need to come from the Conservation Commission.

S. Buchanan went onto say that she was unaware that this proposal had gone to the Conservation Commission to request funds, which was not her understanding of what was supposed to happen. She said that if she is supposed to take the proposal to the Conservation Commission she will do so at the next meeting.

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S. Buchanan said that with all the work that will need to take place, there will have to be some funding and mentioned that maybe by January 2015 the committee would have something to show before the next town meeting.

S. Buchanan asked Clerk Norris to copy some information for the members to have from the wetland survey results of 2013 for the Town of Grantham.

S. Buchanan further voiced her opinion to the members as did A. Wilson as to what they are trying to preserve.

T. Allan said that it seemed to him the board was over complicating this thing and that the map C. McArt came up with is a great map and extremely important to the work, but in his mind the map does not become the foundation for what he felt needed to be done. T. Allan felt they needed to look at the towns long range plan, the criteria of what it is they are looking for in this committee. C. McArt commented that they were obligated to map and inventory aspects of each property.

At this time Zoning Board Chair Conrad Frey entered the meeting at 10:17a.m.

S. Buchanan asked the members if they all could at least discuss whether or not the wetlands survey from 2013 is valuable enough to use as their guideline and read again to the members' items of interest to the committee.

T. Allan proposed that at the next meeting a certain responsibility for each member to focus on the key attributes and what are they for.

S. Buchanan stated she was in agreement with T. Allan's theme. Further discussion ensued with members.

C. McArt at this time explained the map areas to C. Frey so he would better understand earlier in the meeting what was being discussed.

S. Buchanan mentioned that she will bring up the funding issue with the Conservation Commission whether any monies are to come out of the Conservation budget for now and in the future, and she will bring this information with her to the next Open Space Committee meeting in June.

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S. Buchanan at this time asked C. Frey if there was anything he wanted to add.

C. Frey stated he didn't have anything at this time with regards to the discussion at present.

Other

None

Correspondence

None

Adjournment

S. Buchanan asked the members if there were any further discussion. There being none motion was made by S. Buchanan and second by C. McArt to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Unanimously Approved

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on June 5, 2014 at 8:30a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha M. Norris
Clerk