

**Minutes of the Peterborough Open Space Committee Meeting  
December 8, 2011, Town House Peterborough, 7 p.m.**

Present: Alan Bannister, Ed Henault, Eric Thum, Francie Von Mertens, Alex Walker

November's minutes were approved.

**Trail Guide**

At the joint meeting with the Conservation Commission in November, there was discussion of making a poster based on the ConCom's guide to trails in town. Alex Walker agreed to work with designer Coni Porter to transform the guide into an eye-catching poster. The poster would alert people to the trail guide, available at the Town House. Francie Von Mertens will check with the ConCom to get their approval of the concept.

The new Cranberry Meadow Trail will be added. To be determined: whether the Otter Brook trails should be included (landowner approval needed). Von Mertens will work on those. It's questionable whether the Seccombe Trail should be kept on the guide, given its small size. A walkabout to determine that would be advised, or checking with Jeff King. (The ConCom guide says there is a trail map available at the Rec Department.)

**Annual landowner outreach**

It was agreed that the annual contact with major landowners will be a letter reporting the year's considerable land conservation plus an open space map with those properties indicated. To be communicated again is that landowners keep all the privileges of private ownership under a conservation easement.

Target mailing date is mid- to late January.

**Bogle Road / Otter Brook neighborhood gathering**

In tandem with Crotched Mountain and Otter Brook Farm, the Open Space Committee will co-host a Bogle Road neighborhood gathering modeled after one in 2005 where Crotched Mountain announced purchase of "The Hayes Place." The news to report this time is the Otter Brook Farm conservation of 1,500 acres in Peterborough and across the line in Greenfield, plus Crotched Mountain current conservation plans.

Sunday afternoon seemed the best time, with January 29 a possibility. Concern over winter conditions keeping people home was voiced. Once again Dan and Ruth Holmes, Sunnyfield Farm farmers, would host at The Hayes House where they live. Leandra MacDonald's cheese cake was a draw last time and will be solicited again.

Von Mertens will work on date and report back.

**Other**

Ed Henault reported the purchase by MacDowell Colony of the Monadnock Country Club. It was agreed that given the Colony's concerns for maintaining a quiet neighborhood, it's likely the land will be developed much beyond current extent.

Von Mertens is updating the "Conserved Landscape" photos in the select board room. Otter Brook is among many conserved properties not represented. Ideas are welcome for other updates.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 12, **2012.**

/fvm