

**Open Space Committee / Minutes of December 15, 2014 Meeting
5 p.m. Peterborough Town House**

Present: Ed Henault, Debby Kaiser, Francie Von Mertens; Peter Cross, Anne Huberman, Joel Huberman

November's minutes were approved.

Web presence

In response to the Hubermans's ability and willingness to build a Web presence for the OSC on the town's Web site, discussion focused on logical audiences for that presence.

- Owners of land with high conservation value
 - Case studies showing variety of conservation options open to a landowner (conservation easements with range of reserved rights); town funding of town-owned conservation land (Fremont, Hall etc), helping fund conservation land owned by others (Temple Mt., Hayashi); outright donation by landowner (Kane property with Raymond Trail up to Miller State Park); (or whichever project best illustrates wide range of options)
- Voters/taxpayers
 - Information referencing studies that show taxes are generally lower in town with high % of conserved lands; that development generally leads to higher taxes (commercial/industrial as well as residential)
- Townspeople in general – hiking, hunting, etc. Trails (updated ConCom trails map is in process)
- Tourists
 - Information about trails on public land in town would be available on the OSC Web pages for visitors to town as well as townspeople and their visitors.

Landowner letter

Von Mertens showed draft photo montage of the Hayashi and Corwin parcels, conserved in 2014, intended as attachment to the annual letter to owners of properties ranked high for conservation value.

That letter will await work on the OSC Web pages and will direct landowners to landowner options section in those pages. Goal is simple demonstration of various options as illustrated by actual in-town cases with lively photos.

/fvm