

**Minutes of the Peterborough Open Space Committee Meeting  
(joint meeting with the Conservation Commission)  
November 17, 2011, Town House Peterborough, 7 p.m.**

Present: Alan Bannister, Ed Henault, Debby Kaiser, Eric Thum, Francie Von Mertens;  
Conservation Commission members Swift Corwin, John Kerrick, Matt Lundsted,  
John Patterson, Susan Stanbury, Francie Von Mertens;  
Martha Twombly from the Forest Society; Julie Perron.

**Mount Monadnock / Forest Society land conservation project**

Martha Twombly from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (Forest Society) presented a slide show on the Forest Society's land conservation project to purchase the Stowell property (335 acres in Marlborough and Jaffrey) that contains part of the Marlboro Trail up Mount Monadnock; and purchase of a conservation easement on the Royce property (56 acres in Jaffrey). Fundraising goal is \$760,000 with \$120,000 in hand.

Historically the Forest Society has led efforts to conserve Mount Monadnock, now at over 5,000 acres of protected land.

Martha Twombly also spoke about other regional conservation projects that are Forest Society focus areas.

ConCom and Open Space members helped brainstorm the fundraising process including an art auction of Mount Monadnock paintings/artwork.

**Land Conservation update**

Ed Henault talked about current land conservation in town, passing out an updated open space map as well as an updated list of properties conserved. He said the current year was likely to be the best year in town history for land conservation (Otter Brook Phase II; Eastman easement; a third easement in process with the Monadnock Conservancy). Going forward, he said that the committee has a particular interest in agriculture resources—reflecting a concern in the broader land conservation movement about conserving ag land, highly developable, before it is lost to development.

Also reflecting a concern in the broader movement is an interest in getting people up and out on local trails and conserved land. It was agreed that the trend is going the other way (fewer hunters, fisherpeople, etc.). Henault pointed out that past outings offered by the Open Space Committee tended to attract the same people who already are committed outdoorspeople. Outreach continues to be a challenge.

Joint sponsorship of outings (workgangs, field trips, naturalist presentations) was discussed with no conclusions reached other than the need for novelty that might attract people not generally inclined towards the outdoors (ex.: geo-caching).

Francie Von Mertens said Dick Ober's keynote address at the recent NHACC conference focused on the potential of land conservation and conserved land as a community builder in a time when community is more likely to be fractured than strengthened, and at a time when increasing indoors habits were threatening general health.

Robert Wood suggested the ConCom trails map be reconfigured as a poster. Swift Corwin suggested there be a featured Trail of the Month, with Jim Jenkins's articles as a possible assist.

**2011 Easement monitoring**

Susan Stanbury reported that seven easements have been monitored, with 13 to go in the next month and a half.