

## **Open Space Committee / Minutes of January 13, 2011 Meeting**

7 p.m. Peterborough Town House

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

November's minutes were approved with one correction; there was no December meeting. Walker will post.

### **Budget**

Henault suggested the committee work up information for May town meeting that shows that past town funding of conservation projects typically has funding partners for each project. Town meeting is a chance to do some voter education that would be good to take advantage of.

It's not known whether the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund warrant article requesting \$5,000 will be lumped with other capital reserve funds as in the past few years, or stand alone.

### **Wetland zoning article**

Von Mertens briefed the group on the changes to the wetlands zoning the Planning Board is presenting at public hearings and most likely to the voters in May. She said the public hearing process is flawed in that it typically brings out people in strong opposition to an article. Those in favor trust the planning process and aren't motivated to turn out. Those opposed make their points without rebuttal or correction as it's a "hearing" of the public. The newspaper typically comes out with an article headlined "Strong opposition" and opponents are quoted without any checking to see if their accusations are valid.

Von Mertens said that when the time comes, she will enlist the support of the Open Space Committee in helping educate voters.

### **Calendar**

Von Mertens said that almost 1,300 have been sold, close to the break even point. She has contacted Keene and ConVal SAU superintendents who have approved distribution of classroom calendars in their districts (200 donated so far).

Bannister reported few sales (17) at EMS despite good positioning. It remains the best seller calendar at Peterborough Toadstool.

### **Conservation projects**

The Harris Center is working on a conservation easement in town, and the committee agreed it very likely merits support funding from the town when the easement nears completion later in the year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting is Thursday, February 10, 7 p.m., Town House.

/fvm