

Open Space Committee / Minutes of February 10, 2010 Meeting

7 p.m. Peterborough Town House

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

January's minutes were approved.

Budget

Ed Henault said the joint Selectboard/Budget Committee would be meeting the following Tuesday to discuss budgets including the \$10,000 Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund appropriation within the Office of Community Development budget.

It's not known whether the various capital reserve funds have been cut back across the board, given the state's withdrawal of \$300,000 support. Nicole MacStay has given assurance that there have been cutbacks across the board – not just to open space..

Eric Thum and Alan Bannister will attend the joint meeting.

Eastman Easement / High Street

Francie Von Mertens reported that Meade Cadot from the Harris Center presented the natural resource benefits of the Eastman parcel located near the cemetery on High Street. These include location over the town's high yield aquifer; wellhead protection area; and wildlife corridor. The ConCom voted \$2,000 support for the easement to come from the Land Use Change Tax funds.

Town Conservation lands

Henault and Von Mertens met with Fash Farashahi of OCD about creating a town conservation lands map, a refinement of the current Open Space map that includes water department land. The goal is a map that shows conservation land perhaps with an asterisk to note land that is considered conservation land but lacks legal protection. That would serve as encouragement to pursue legal protection although conservation easements are costly for the town as land trusts typically request hefty donations to easement stewardship fund.

Wheeler, Babine and Lowe

Von Mertens reported efforts to talk with the abutting landowner east of the town property have failed, but research indicates what appeared to be a separate small lot is actually that part of the larger lot, with buildings, that is not in current use. Efforts will continue to notify the landowners about conservation initiatives in their neighborhood.

Calendar project

Henault suggested outreach to neighboring towns to get help selling the calendar. providing them calendars at wholesale rate. Members volunteered to contact those towns. Von Mertens said retail sales would in large part be through Toadstool in Keene, Milford and Peterborough.

Alex Walker said she would contact a photographer she knows about possibility of photos for the calendar.

The next meeting of the Open Space Committee is **Wednesday, March 10** at 6 p.m.