

Open Space Committee / Minutes of October 13, 2011 Meeting

7 p.m. Peterborough Town House

Present: Alan Bannister, Ed Henault, Debby Kaiser, Francie Von Mertens

September's meeting minutes were approved.

Budget

Ed Henault said that following our policy of requesting an annual appropriation to the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund that replaces funds spent the past year, the request this year would be zero. No funds have been appropriated this year although support funding for two conservation easement projects in the works has been approved conceptually for a likely total of \$7,000.

Whether funding from the land conservation capital reserve fund will be requested for purchase of the Monadnock Country Club is unknown at this time.

Henault made the following motion (Kaiser second):

That the amount of zero for the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund will be requested from the CIP this year reflecting zero expenditures in the past year, but with clear understanding on the part of CIP and the Budget Committee that in the following year(s) a replacement amount will be requested reflecting funds spend.

The motion passed.

Related to budget, Francie Von Mertens will contact the Monadnock Conservancy to remind them that support funding for a conservation easement the Conservancy is working on in town is available.

Members noted a recent letter-to-editor from Tom Neff, former OSC member, stating firmly that the land conservation capital reserve fund is not to be spent for recreation land, but for natural resource land. This in response to news item that the chair of the Budget Committee had recommended conservation funds at a public hearing on a potential sale of the country club to the town.

NHACC annual conference November 5

Henault and Von Mertens will be attending the annual conference that offers many workshops relevant to land conservation including funding for farm- and wetlands.

New members

It was agreed that new members are desired for the OSC, including people with strong outreach skills. Von Mertens told the story of Katherine Hahn, at the Forest Society long ago, boldly knocking on the doors of major landowners in town with good success in gaining easements.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is the night of the Full Beaver Moon (November 10).

/fvm