

Open Space Committee / Minutes of August 12, 2010 Meeting

7 p.m. Peterborough Town House

Present: Alan Bannister, Ed Henault, Debby Kaiser, Francie Von Mertens, Alex Walker; Eric Thum excused

May and July's minutes were approved.

Calendar

Payment of graphic designer Jill Shaffer was approved. For payment of future invoices (Sim's Press; photographers; posters) Debby Kaiser made the following motion (Alan Bannister second).

Move to authorize Francie Von Mertens to approve invoices on behalf of the Open Space Committee relating to the OSC's 2011 calendar project.

The motion passed (Von Mertens abstained from voting).

Marketing. It was decided that the three Toadstools and Steele's will be the only retail outlets following a "less is more" approach. That being said, Alan will pursue EMS as a third appropriate outlet, with the same percentage-of-sales-price arrangement as the others.

Von Mertens will explore Sims Press and the Town House as storage places for the calendars as they take up considerable space. More brainstorming about sales followed. Von Mertens will incorporate into existing marketing doc and e-mail to members, along with a PDF of the flyer that can be e-mailed as outreach and also serve as a link on various web sites.

Easements

The committee noted with pleasure the new Neff easement that protects Bogle Brook frontage and abuts the Thomas easement. Discussion followed on how easement donors could be thanked by the town. The Neffs are the 35th landowning family in town to place a conservation easement on their family land. Expressing the town's gratitude is appropriate and warranted. Ideas exchanged included a plaque placed on the land similar to what Sharon does; and a framed photo or artwork with appropriate inscription given by the Selectboard. Further ideas are welcome.

Henault will take photos of Sharon property plaques for OSC members to view.

Henault also will review a new publication sent by the Forest Society on amending or terminating conservation easements. He will report back. Of special interest is terminating easements – an option the committee is unfamiliar with.

Landowner outreach

As directed, Von Mertens contacted two owners of important natural resource land by letter about conservation options for their land. Follow-up phone call to one was not possible as the phone number is unlisted.

September meeting.

Owing to conflicts for several people, the next meeting of the OSC is Tuesday September 14, 7 p.m.

/fvm