

**Peterborough Open Space Committee Minutes**  
**August 9, 2018 Meeting**  
**Peterborough Town House 5 p.m.**

Present: Ed Henault, Debby Kaiser, Anne Huberman, Joel Huberman, Francie Von Mertens; Select Board Liaison Tyler Ward

Ed Henault welcomed Select Board Liaison Tyler Ward, and members passed along some background about Open Space Committee process.

**Old Town Farm easement**

Following town policy to cover landowner expenses involved in donating a conservation easement, the Committee awaits expense itemization from the Forest Society, holder of the easement in progress. These typically include survey and land trust overhead including long-term annual monitoring. To be determined: whether a forestry management plan is optional or required.

Francie Von Mertens will communicate this to the property owners, and send around the file on the 2007 Strong easement, the first one where the town policy was applied. A Forest Society easement, the expenses were itemized along with the conservation values of the property being conserved.

Under the OSC system of ranking properties, the easement property ranked well given size (94 Ac), abutting conservation land, scenic road frontage, and forest resources. Unknown at this time, whether reserved rights will include a house lot(s).

Tyler Ward asked if the ranking information was digitally available. It's not, and Joel Huberman volunteered to scan the ranking pages. Many OSC files are in document form, and could be downloaded onto a disc along with the scanned pages.

**Cunningham Pond project**

Henault and Von Mertens updated the group on an ambitious conservation project originated by Cunningham Pond neighbors that the Monadnock Conservancy agreed to take on as partners and eventual owners of the property.

Von Mertens said that the Conservancy rarely owns land, indicating the value they see in the project. The 100+ acres include a large field for ag resources, as well significant scenic values from the town beach including shoreline.

The OSC has not been approached as funders. Henault said that \$50,000 from the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund was directed towards conservation of the Hiroshi property, the largest grant to-date recommended by the OSC and approved by the Conservation Commission and Select Board, the fund's co-agents to expend. To be determined: Whether a compelling case for support would result in a larger contribution.

The capital reserve fund balance: \$386,000.

/fvm