

Minutes of the Open Space Committee

April 12, 2010

Members Present: Ann Marie Pilch, George Johnson, Cathy Tomasetti, Rachel Kane, John Vosburg
Members Absent: Andy Reseska, James Keast
Meeting started at 7:40 PM

Minutes Approval:

George Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from 3/8/10 (regular and executive sessions) as amended. Rachel Kane seconded the motion which passed as follows: George Johnson - yes, Ann Marie Pilch - yes, Cathy Tomasetti – yes, Rachel Kane – yes, John Vosburg - abstained

Renewal Letters:

James Keast and Cathy Tomasetti were each issued a renewal letter for an additional term on the Open Space Committee which will need to be signed and returned to the Selectmen's office by May 3rd.

Warren Woods:

Ann Marie Pilch spoke to the realtor for Northeastern who said that they were given our offer, but have not responded yet. The window for bringing this to Spring Town Meeting has closed and we will have to wait for Fall Town Meeting. Ann Marie has also spoken to Bob Ford, Mass Audubon, regarding the next potential steps.

Bullard Farm:

George reported that Bullard Memorial Farm is now an Educational, Not for Profit organization (IRS 501 C(3)). Although they currently pay Real Estate taxes, that may soon change. The Home Rule Petition has not been filed since there are high level issues yet to be resolved. We will have to wait and see if we can reach an agreement in principal to continue pursuing a Conservation Restriction.

Holliston Landowner:

A landowner is considering, once again, discussing his property with us. We need to consider potential options (Grants, Bonding, etc) regarding financing this property, if we want to pursue this.

Holliston Landowner Letter:

The committee received a letter from Michael Tomasetti (no relation to Cathy Tomasetti known) offering for sale a portion (12.93 acres) of his farm (Old Burke's Farm) on Washington Street, which he refers to as historical. The property seems isolated, with limited access due to wetlands. Ann Marie will call him to see what he is asking, although, currently we have other priorities.

Financial Issues:

Cathy Tomasetti reported that the balances as of March 12, 2009 are:

Open Space Reserve Fund:	\$56,729
Open Space Acquisition Fund:	\$71,168
CPC General Reserve Fund:	\$701,885

Cathy will ask the Town Accountant when the Cell Tower revenue is posted to the Acquisition Fund and clarify the line items on the Community Preservation budget printouts.

Web Site:

John Vosburg is gathering information for the site. Ann Marie heard there is limited space on the town's web site. John is trying to get the Open Space Plan onto a PDF to see if he can link it for access to the web site.

As Town Meeting is on May 10th, our next meeting will be posted for May 17th.

George Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Vosburg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously as follows: George Johnson - yes, Ann Marie Pilch - yes, John Vosburg - yes, Cathy Tomasetti – yes, Rachel Kane - yes