

Minutes of the Open Space Committee

January 15, 2013

Page 1

Members Present: Ann Marie Pilch, George Johnson, James Keast, Lixy Carey, Rachel Kane

Members Absent: John Vosburg, Mike O'Brien

Guests: Melissa Kaspern (Holliston Resident), Carl Hakanson (Ashland Resident), Judy Rosenthal (Ashland Resident), Greg Woods (Ashland Resident), Karen Sherman (Town Planner)

General Topics:

The committee conducted introductions with the meeting guests. Carl Hakanson, Judy Rosenthal and Greg Woods are members of the Ashland Open Space Preservation Committee. The group wanted to know our intentions for the parcel of land that is in Holliston and considered part of Warren Woods. Ann Marie indicated that Holliston approached Northeastern with an offer in 2010. At the time Northeastern indicated that they wanted to wait until the Ashland portion of Warren Woods deal was completed before considering the Holliston piece. Currently the land in Holliston is available (both the front and back sections) for a "top" dollar asking price.

The Ashland OSPC spoke with Bob Cronin (Northeastern's Realtor) who suggested that Ashland make an offer for the vacant back section of the land. Ashland is currently seeking coalition of funding to purchase the land for approximately \$350K. A private individual has already pledged \$150K. The committee indicated that we would be interested in helping to fund but need to discuss additional details.

All guests with the exception of Karen Sherman left the meeting.

Lixy Carey will provide an update on the OSC funds.

George Johnson provided the following updates: The Conservation Restriction (CR) for the NSTAR land is currently being reviewed by the state. The CR for the Town Forest is still in Limbo. The Mass Forest Landowners Association is not interested in hosting the CR. If the TTOR holds the CR then a new land survey may need to be conducted and the CR will need to be rewritten.

Karen Sherman provided an update on the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. The goal is to have the plan completed in the next few weeks. The committee reviewed the Target Open Space Lands outlined in the plan. Karen will resend an updated map and Excel file with the land targets sorted by geographic location. The committee will then review and prioritize potential land acquisitions and return back to Karen.

James Keast made a motion to leave regular session and enter Executive Session to discuss matters related to real property acquisition and not return into regular session. George Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously as follows: Ann Marie Pilch – yes, James Keast - yes, Lixy Carey – yes, Rachel Kane – yes, George Johnson – yes.