

Minutes of June 16, 2014 Holliston Open Space Committee Meeting

Attendees: Ann Marie Pilch, George Johnson, John Vosburg, Lixy Carey, and James Keast

Absent: Rachel Kane and Michael O'Brien

It was reported that Northeastern University is ready to resume negotiations regarding the property abutting Warren Woods. The Board of Selectmen sent an updated offer letter and Northeastern responded with a draft Purchase and Sale Agreement. Paul LeBeau has the agreement and is reviewing it with the Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel. Bob Ford from Mass Audubon, who will hold the CR for the property has been updated and so has the anonymous donor. Ann Marie Pilch went to the Community Preservation Committee for approval to extend the funding from the CPA Funds for an additional year to accommodate the delay in finalizing the deal.

Despite the eleventh hour offer of grant funding from the state to purchase a Conservation Restriction for the Bullard Memorial Farm, the deal fell through. The Bullard Memorial Farm Association could not organize in such a tight timeframe a vote of its membership to amend a clause in the CR that was viewed as overly restrictive. We can pursue a state grant next year but a new appraisal of the property will need to be done. Also, a commitment to stick to the asking price from Bullard Memorial Farm Association would be necessary for a new deal to be struck. Lixy Carey said she would check with the Town Administrator what the process would be for having the CPA funds allocated at the October Town Meeting returned to their original accounts.

George Johnson reported that the CR on the Town Forest is still incomplete. It has only one signature on it and there is no record of a vote to allow for just one signature. A new holder of the CR may need to be arranged.

The lawyer representing the Serocki estate's property at 34 Rogers Road has contacted the town to gauge interest in purchasing the property. The property is under Chapter 61A so the town will have 120 days to match another offer to purchase the property. Lixy Carey was in touch with the lawyer who has since not returned calls asking if a member of the committee can walk the property. Lixy will reach out again.

It was noted that there are still two uncapped wells on the Adams Street property. They are far from the trails and finding them will be difficult but if we have a dry fall, we should try to locate them so they can be capped.

The committee elected new officers. George Johnson moved to nominate Lixy Carey as chair. James Keast seconded the motion. Lixy Carey was elected chair unanimously. George Johnson moved to nominate Rachel Kane as vice-chair. James Keast seconded the motion. Rachel was elected vice-chair unanimously, contingent upon her acceptance of the role.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

