

Minutes of the Open Space Committee

January 27, 2014

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

Members Absent: Mike O'Brien

General Topics:

John Vosburg made a motion to approve the October 8, 2013 regular session minutes as amended. Rachel Kane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with John Vosburg and Lixy Carey Abstaining.

George Johnson made a motion to approve the December 16, 2013 regular session minutes as amended. Lixy Carey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with George Johnson Abstaining.

On 1/21/14 and 1/22/14 the Finance Committee and The Board of Selectman respectively approved the payment of an invoice from George Johnson from the Open Space Fund for monies he fronted for expenses related to the review of the conservation restriction on the Bullard Farm.

Bullard Farm:

Since the State Land Grant was not approved the committee discussed the need to amend the town meeting votes to change the State Land Grant contingency to other funding sources for the \$400K. The wording should include a statement that if other funding cannot be secured the funds currently allocated from the CPC and Open space will be released back into the respective organizations.

George Johnson gave an update from a conversation he had with Jack Hathaway, president of The Bullard Farm Memorial Trust. There are still issues surrounding the public use of the land and specific rights of access. There are additional concerns related to hunting that is contained in the CR. As it relates to hunting George suggested that, that detail be captured in the land Management Plan.

It was also discussed that Mr. Hathaway needs to go back to the members of the Bullard Farm Memorial Trust and explain they need to act quickly on making their decision to accept the CR as some of the multiple funding sources may go away and the funds are especially important now that the State Grant was not approved. Ann Marie suggested that George go back to the Bullard Farm Memorial Trust and also explain that since there are multiple funding sources and the coordination of keeping each of these sources available, can not be maintained for a long period of time, so a timely decision is critical.

Town Forest:

Rachel Kane plans on contacting the owner(s) of the landlocked parcel in the center of the NStar property to see if they are willing to sell or donate the land so that the Forest is contiguous.

James Keast made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Vosburg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.