

## Minutes of the Open Space Committee for May 16, 2016

The Open Space Committee met on May 16, 2016, at 8:30 AM in the Caucus Hall Meeting Room in Provincetown Town Hall, 260 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA

Members present: Dave Hale, Rebecca Matarazzi, and Dennis Minsky (recording)

Also present: Loretta Dougherty

Minsky moved, and Hale seconded, the appointment of Loretta Dougherty as a regular member of the Open Space Committee. After a short interview and discussion, Dougherty was approved, 3-0-0.

Minsky moved, and Matarazzi seconded, the appointment of Celine Gandolfo as a regular member of the Open Space Committee. After a short discussion, Gandolfo was approved, 3-0-0.

The committee agreed that the next meeting would be June 13, 2016, at 8:30 AM.

Minsky reported that there was a backlog of past minutes to be approved (or in the case of members not present for a given meeting, accepted); he will be sending these out to members prior to the next meeting.

Minsky stated that the committee basically has two areas of focus: 1) land acquisition and 2) the management and promotion of conservation land, so that the public gains greater access and use of these areas. All agreed that these two goals were related and interdependent, as more support at Town Meeting for Open Space purchases will necessarily devolve from greater use of already existing areas.

Minsky further stated that the report of our Finance Director last October put our Land Bank funds at \$1.4 million; Hale said that by the end of the Land Bank program in 2020 that amount would exceed \$4 million; Minsky also pointed out that 3% of the Land Bank funds is available for maintenance and enhancement of town-owned conservation land- a sizeable amount. There is also over \$20,000 in the administrative fund, for pre-acquisition costs.

There was a general discussion of the property of Miriam Collinson, 22 and 24 Nelson Avenue, but there being no firm asking price, there was no official action taken. Matarazzi stated that she will take a look at the property; Minsky and Hale already have. This property will be discussed at a future date.

In regard to management of properties, Minsky stated that he thought it was time to get a professional assessment and recommendation for the Shank Painter Uplands Area, in terms of control of invasives and the planting of native species. Matarazzi thought that might be an unnecessary expenditure, and suggested that hiring a professional firm to weed and water the area would be a better option. Hale suggested that a professional assessment might also be a good idea for the Conservation Park, the area that lies between the B Street Garden and Shank Painter Pond. Minsky thought that the two approaches, one a professional overview and visioning approach and the other a more practical day-to-day maintenance plan, are related and both good ideas. He said that he would solicit interest and bids for these plans. Suggested companies were: Wilkinson Ecological Design, Bayberry Gardens, and Safeharbor Environmental. Minsky also stated that the Town's new Environmental Planner and Conservation Agent, Deb Albenberg would attend future meetings and would assist in these activities.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Dennis Minsky, chair

