

Minutes of the Open Space Committee for March 20, 2015

The Open Space Committee met on March 20, 2015, at 9:30, in the Judge Welsh Meeting Room

Members present: Suzanne Harding, April Baxter, Dennis Minsky (recording)

Also present for portions of the meeting: David Gardner, acting town manager, Dan Hoort, finance director, Doug Johnstone, town clerk, and Peter Brown, Banner reporter

-the committee discussed the Coastal Acres Campground project with Mr. Brown

-Harding moved, and Baggins seconded, to accept the minutes of March 2, 2015 (both regular session and executive session); Johnstone explained that the minutes could be accepted rather than approved because Baggins was not present at the meeting; these minutes would not be posted at any rate because the executive session topic is still pending.

The motion passed, 3-0-0

-Mr. Hoort presented the committee with a list of 5 properties that are unclaimed and unbuildable (they are 26A Bangs St., 438R Commercial St., 28R Creek Rd., 73R Franklin St., and 29R Nickerson St.) He suggested that the committee might take them over. Possible uses- pocket parks or community gardens- were discussed. No further action was taken.

-Minsky moved, and Harding seconded, to not recommend Article 16, at the Annual Town Meeting, and, further, to notify the Town Moderator that the committee would like to issue a report. There was no discussion.

The motion passed, 3-0-0

-Harding moved, and Minsky seconded, to not recommend Article 36, at the Annual Town Meeting, and, further, to notify the Town Moderator that the committee would like to issue a report. Minsky, while supporting the goal of saving both parking and park area at the Hall property, expressed his reservations about language in the article referencing Land Bank funds and PARC grants, neither of which would be appropriate for this purchase.

The motion passed, 3-0-0

-Minsky moved, and Harding seconded, to approve the expenditure of up to \$2,500 in administrative funds to send out an open letter from the committee to all voters, using the town voters list, describing the upcoming campaign to save the Coastal Acres Campground, and the need to retain our Land Bank funds in order to do that. Mr. Gardner suggested that Mick Rudd might be contracted to facilitate this effort.

The motion passed, 3-0-0

-Mr. Gardner suggested that the committee be represented at the March 26, 2015 Council On Aging meeting to review the Town Meeting articles. Harding will definitely be there; Minsky may be able to attend; possibly Hale could also make it. The goal would be to explain the committee's positions on various articles.

-Harding will work on flyers to post around town to encourage people to attend Town Meeting and vote against the “folding in” of the Land Bank.

-Minsky will work on the presentation of the “Walk on the Wild Side” presentation at the library on March 31; other members of the committee will also be there, and the intention is to use the talk as a launching point for support of the Land Bank. Minsky will also work on the wording of the open letter to voters.

-Handouts at Town Meeting will include: the Coastal Acres campground conceptual presentation, a table delineating all open space properties and the details of their acquisition, a breakdown of the modified CPA funds of the 13 Cape towns which have “folded in” their Land Banks (some with substantial provisions for open space), a copy of the open letter to voters, and possibly other material. Hale had volunteered to manage this aspect of our effort.

-Minsky and Harding gave a briefing of the previous day’s meeting with Wilkinson Ecological Associates, David Gardner, Austin Brandt, and Jennifer Dubois of the Trustees of the Reservations. The committee did contract with Wilkinson (for no more than \$4,600), and the group analyzed maps and discussed ideas and priorities for the Coastal Acres campground, and then went on site to see what we could see around the snow cover. Wilkinson has pledged to deliver a conceptual rendering prior to the deadling for Town Meeting materials on March 26.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00

Dennis Minsky, chair