

Minutes of the Open Space Committee for October 15, 2015

The Open Space Committee met on October 15, 2015 at 8:15 am, in the Judge Welsh Meeting Room

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

Also present: David Panagore, Town Manager

Minsky moved, and Matarazzi seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2015 meeting as written.

The motion passed, 3-0-0

Minsky moved, and Hale seconded, to approve the payment of \$4,250.00 to Wilkinson Ecological Design, Inc. for contracted services.

The work consisted of a conceptual design for the Coastal Acres Campground, the proposal for which was approved at our March 2, 2015 meeting. Minsky reported that Director of Finances Dan Hoort stated that the Open Space Committee's Pre-acquisition Administrative Fund, from which this expenditure would be made, stands at \$20,011.13.

The motion passed, 3-0-0

Hale moved, and Minsky seconded, to approve a contract with Staves Consulting for no more than \$10,000 for a business model analysis of the Coastal Acres Campground, said approval contingent on receipt of a scope of work and price quote.

A discussion followed. Since the posting of this item, the Coastal Acres Campground has been placed under contract by the seller to an unknown party. Minsky reported a conversation that he had had with Jamie Veara, representing the Campground, to that effect. Therefore this action was deemed unnecessary.

The motion did not pass, 0-0-3

Minsky moved, and Hale seconded, to approve the proposed contract by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts for a retainer for consulting services for no more than \$1,200.00.

A discussion followed. The past successful work of the Compact, specifically its director, Mark Robinson, was referenced. It was noted, however, that the Open Space Committee itself had qualified members who could perform some of the analytical and negotiating services that Robinson performed in the past; however, Robinson has invaluable institutional memory of land conservation on Cape Cod, as well as a firm grasp of the network of state agencies and funding sources. It was agreed that any expenditure for services from the Compact would necessitate prior approval by the committee.

The motion passed, 3-0-0.

Matarazzi moved, and Hale seconded, that the Open Space Committee adopt a template for new acquisition projects.

Matarazzi had prepared such a template, and it was discussed; there was general agreement that such a structured approach would enhance the committee's efforts. Hale pointed out that the committee had already gone through most of these outlined steps in earlier acquisition efforts, almost all of them successful. Still, the template itself can only improve the effectiveness of the committee's work, it was agreed.

The motion passed, 3-0-0.

The above discussion led to some exploration of past efforts at identifying properties to be considered for purchase or protection (via conservation restrictions). Minsky and Hale described the efforts of methodically perusing town maps and noting properties of interest. Panagore was interested to see any list of such properties, and wondered about approaches that could be taken to save land. Hale and Minsky agreed to share what they had. It was agreed that, with the apparent failure to secure the Coastal Acres Campground, the Committee was essentially starting at step one and going into search mode.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55

Dennis Minsky, chair