

## Minutes of the Open Space Committee for June 18, 2009

Meeting ran: 5:02 until 6:18

Members present: Steve Milkewicz, Ghee Patrick, Dave Hale, Dennis Minsky (recording)

Also present: David Mayo

-Dave Hale approved as new member, 3-0-0

-The minutes of 2/13/09 were reviewed and discussed. Milkewicz moved to approve, Minsky seconded, and the vote was 4-0-0.

-The Special Town Meeting Article 7, involving the PARC grant for Suzanne's Garden was discussed. Hale moved to recommend this article, Milkewicz seconded, and it was approved, 4-0-0.

-The Special Town Meeting Article 6, involving the use of Land Bank funds, rather than borrowing, for the Brown Street purchase was discussed. Patrick moved to recommend this article, Minsky seconded, and it was approved, 4-0-0.

-The committee agreed to dispatch Dave Hale to meet with Alix Haleila, the town finance director, to discuss the status of Land Bank funds and to report back to the committee.

-Minsky reported on the progress of the rehabilitation of the Shank Painter conservation area. Americorps volunteers have continued the removal of invasive species and the planting of native wildflowers, ground cover, and shrubs. Patrick suggested that future efforts include more tree planting, and it was agreed that purchasing saplings and transplanting others from the site would be a good plan.

-Minsky reported that the Community Preservation Committee has asked for a "master plan" from each of its constituent committees. Milkewicz commented that our plan is simply to acquire and protect any and all parcels that become available. Minsky added that our criteria for considering a parcel (other than size) have been and continue to be:

- 1) habitat value
- 2) adjacency to other conservation land and/or the greenway
- 3) threat of development or ability to be developed
- 4) balance between east and west ends of town

Patrick suggested that we contact our counterpart committees, as well as conservation trusts in other outer cape towns, as to their operating guidelines, and it was agreed to do so.

-Minsky brought up the list of properties to be considered for acquisition, which was developed earlier in the year; he promised to share this spreadsheet with members, so that it could be discussed at our next meeting.

-Minsky asked whether Land Bank funds could be used to facilitate conservation restrictions or only for outright purchases of property. It was agreed to investigate this question.

-Patrick suggested that an effort be made to achieve better communication between the Open Space Committee, the Provincetown Conservation Trust, and the Provincetown Conservation Commission, and it was agreed to do so.

-Milkewicz shared the topic of a recent conversation with assistant town manager David Gardner regarding connecting pathways between Open Space properties and other land in town, and it was agreed that such pathways would contribute to public safety and eco-tourism goals of the town.

-David Mayo addressed the committee regarding his continued desire to find a way to preserve his property off Bradford Street in the East End. He stated that he expressly does not want to divide the property, rather to save it in its entirety. He has communicated with Michelle Jurisciewicz, representing the Community Preservation Committee,

regarding the possibility of a LAND grant application. He discussed the town's assessment, and a possible purchase price. Hale reminded the group that an appraisal will be necessary at some point in this process.

-The meeting was adjourned at 6:18