

Future Open Space Planning Committee October 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Present:

Wayne Brooking, Craig Cooper, Chris Franklin, Frank Governali, John Greene, Caitlin Jordan, Bo Norris, Carole Anne Jordan, Jessica Sullivan, Maureen O'Meara

Absent:

Richard Bauman

Minutes of the September 21 meeting

Approved

Public Comment Period

Jay Cox, Cape Farm Alliance, Sawyer Rd- He is here because of his interest in the parcel list and range of tools. He supports the letter from the Cape Farm Alliance and also submitted his own comments.

Penny Jordan, Jordan Farm, Wells Rd - She wants to call attention to the letter from the Cape Farm Alliance.

Sheila Alexander, Mitchell Rd - My property is on the key parcels list. I agree with the comments from the Cape Farm Alliance.

Bib Jordan, Wells Rd- He supports the Cape Farm Alliance comments. He noted that there are a lot of property owners on the parcels list that are not members of the Cape Farm Alliance and may not know they are on the list. Before you proceed too far, you should get input from the property owners.

Mr. Governali said that the work of the committee is transparent and he appreciates the comment.

Frank Strout, Becky's Cove Rd- My family's property is on the list and I am interested in the work of the committee.

Correspondence

The Committee acknowledged receiving and reviewing correspondence

Key Parcels

The Committee reviewed maps identifying key parcels based on previously determined selection criteria: (1) Agriculture – Existing Farms, (2) Greenbelt – Open Space and Potential Trails and (3) Wildlife Habitat – Habitat outside of RP zones. The Committee examined maps detailing these priorities and the key parcels impacted.

Comments:

- Agriculture: Existing farmlands were provided by the Cape Farm Alliance. Chris Franklin asked if the Two Lights strawberry fields should be added and the Committee noted that opportunities exist to add additional parcels.
- Greenbelt: Existing and potential trails were identified per the existing Greenbelt Plan. Parcels were selected based on conceptual trails and the impacted lots.
- Habitat: Based on areas identified by Beginning with Habitat and only those areas not in wetland zones.

Based on mapping, the Committee examined a spreadsheet detailing prioritization of key parcels based on the aforementioned maps as well as specific lot information.

- Jessica Sullivan asked how to account for Ram Island Farm and other Sprague Corp. lands. John Greene will submit information. She also inquired about other farms and noted that we should attempt to capture everything.
- Carole Anne Jordan suggested the Committee examine the range of open space preservation tools first before looking at key parcels.
- John Greene expressed concern about relying on the wildlife map to identify key parcels as it is non-regulatory in nature and contains inconsistencies. Chris Franklin noted that lots of anecdotal local knowledge about often doesn't show up on statewide maps.

Motion: That the Committee's current focus shift to examine the range of open space tools first then specific key parcels. Moved by Carole Ann Jordan, seconded by Caitlin Jordan. After Committee discussion, the Committee moved approval.

Range of Tools

The Committee was provided an overview of the range of tools that can be used to preserve open space and the benefits and limitations of each as they apply to Cape Elizabeth. These include zoning related, acquisition and other tools. After review, the Committee decided to examine each specific tool and make recommendation to refine per application in Cape Elizabeth in anticipation of a future vote. Chris Franklin suggested two more tools be added to the list: (1) Buy, restrict and sell and (2) Limited development to finance open space protection. A member of the public also suggested examining less-than-perpetuity easements.

Next Steps/draft agenda for next meeting – 10/19/11 at 10am

The Committee reviewed and refined the agenda for the next meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Bo Norris