

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cape Elizabeth Town Council
FROM: Future Open Space Preservation (FOSP) Committee
DATE: July 14, 2011
SUBJECT: FOSP Committee Status Report

The FOSP Committee held its first meeting on March 24, 2011, and has held a total of 5 full committee meetings. The committee has prepared a draft schedule of meetings and topics to be covered, which is attached. The committee has also created a subcommittee for the cost benefit analysis and that committee has met four times. Because of the breadth of work assigned to the committee, it intends to create additional subcommittees as needed. Subcommittees report back to the full committee.

Per the committee charge adopted by the Town Council, the committee has developed a definition of open space. The definition was developed after reviewing 26 sample open space definitions. (See attached summary of definition elements). The committee is recommending a definition that is broad enough to encompass a range of open space types. At this time, the working draft open space definition is:

Open space: Land and water areas, whether public or private, retained for use as active or passive recreation areas or for resource protection, agriculture, or preservation, in an essentially undeveloped state.

The committee also discussed a definition for rural areas as required by the committee charge. The committee reviewed 9 sample definitions. (See attached summary of definition elements.) Most rural definitions relate to federal programs for rural economic development programs, rural health programs, and the U.S. Census. These definitions include a numerical density calculation that is incompatible with Cape Elizabeth's "rural character." The committee questioned the need for a rural areas definition and is recommending to the Town Council that a rural areas definition not be established.

The committee is recommending that _____ be retained to conduct the Cost Benefit Study. This study is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2011, at which time a public opinion survey will be conducted.

The committee is available to answer any questions regarding this status report.