

Minutes for the May 23, 2012 Future Open Space Planning Committee

Attendees: John Greene, Wayne Brooking, Carol Anne Jordan, Caitlin Jordan, Frank Governali, Craig Cooper, Bo Norris, Chris Franklin, Dick Bauman, Maureen O'Meara (Staff)

Absent: Jessica Sullivan

Public Comment Period: The Committee briefly reviewed and discussed an email from Dan Fishbien previously responded to by Jessica Sullivan.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the April 25, 2012 meeting were approved and accepted.

Public Opinion Survey: Mary Ellen Fitzgerald has requested one additional week to do the analysis and will include a draft in the packet to be sent out prior to the June meeting. She noted the delay was due to trouble finding enough survey participants given the prevalence of "Do Not Call" numbers.

Open Space Preservation Process: Maureen reviewed draft recommendations detailing the FOSP process to date and a recommendation that implementation of Open Space planning be conducted via the Conservation Commission. Maureen then reviewed the current tasks of the Conservation Commission and the ability to take on the task of identifying, evaluating and recommending open space opportunities. Frank Governali asked about the incremental added work for the Commission and it was noted that the biggest change would be a shift from more ad hoc work to a specific process for looking at open space. Dick Bauman raised concerns about the commission's ability to take on the task as it may not necessarily be a natural extension of their current work which has mainly been focused on trail work. The Committee asked a number of questions about the current focus of the Commission around trails development and maintenance and then discussed the pros and cons. The FOSP Committee agreed that it will be important to work closely with the Conservation Commission and other stakeholders to figure out the details and how to structure any process. After a motion by Caitlin Jordan and a second by Carol Anne Jordan, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the task of identifying, evaluating and recommending open space opportunities to the Town Council be undertaken by the Conservation Commission. The Committee next reviewed a draft of the proposed process for implementing open space planning. It was agreed that in identifying open space opportunities, any list shall only include willing landowners or contain an opt in provision for landowners who have expressed desire to be included on any list. The committee also discussed potential issues with evaluation and recommendation options.

Next Steps: Maureen will present a draft of the Committee's recommendation to the Conservation Commission and also make a proposal to hold a joint meeting with FOSP in August.

Financial Resources: Maureen noted that a Draft of Financial Resources is available and reviewed a number of ways to finance open space priorities. The Committee discussed

various pros and cons with each recommendation and made suggestions on way to revise draft language. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the revised draft.

The next meeting of the Future Open Space Planning Committee will be held June 27, 2012 at 7:00pm and will focus on reviewing the public opinion survey results and growth areas.

Respectfully submitted,
Bo Norris
Acting Secretary