

Open Space Management Committee Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2011

Present: Dena DeSena, Zach Matzkin, Dick Bauman, John Planinsek, Garvan Donegan, Jessica Sullivan, Marti Blair, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

1. Meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m.
2. Minutes of February 22, 2011 approved.
3. Correspondence. None.
4. Citizen comment. None.
5. Use Chart (second review). We are planning a Public Meeting for May 19, which will give the public a chance to comment on the Use Chart.

The revisions showing the Open Spaces as Primary and Secondary makes it so much easier to use the chart. The bold N for deed restrictions is a bit off-putting. Maureen will figure out how to show that in a less startling way.

On collected parcels, like Great Pond and its associated connectors, put the large one first and then subordinate the smaller parcels under that by indenting them. Same with Two Lights and Gull Crest.

The chart is the clearest way to show uses. For the Public Meeting, Maureen will make a special map showing where snowmobiles are allowed. Prior to the meeting, we need to work out publicity and reaching out to interested groups.

Alewife Brook Park is a 0.3 acre piece fronting on Alewife Brook, which we acquired from the Water District, at the corner of Alewives Brook Farm. No snowmobiling.

6. Management Policies for specific parcels. There will be two types of maintenance: (1) routine that occurs every year and will be done by the new Public Works employee; (2) Repairs/improvements that occur less frequently and are more in the nature of a capital project. These would be accomplished by a blend of Public Works, private contractors and volunteers.

The "Maintenance by Others" section is an effort to make it clear that we are not trying to take over the maintenance responsibilities of others like the athletic fields.

The "Encroachment" section is a response to a Councilor's and the Town Manager's suggestion that we take a more proactive stand toward dealing with encroachments. It includes a proposal to fund a surveyor out of the Town's budget who would locate a set of boundaries each year, at the direction of the Commission. Another suggestion was to mark our boundaries with large boulders, but those would have to come out of the Commission's budget. There is a very specific section on Encroachment right before this section, the prior section is the more reactive part while this section is the proactive plan.

Monumentation is a requirement in the subdivision ordinance, but the pins get moved or obscured. There was discussion of the precipitating incident that led to the Council's concern with the encroachment issue. The response to encroachment issues would come from the Council, not the Commission. A suggested budget amount would be \$2500, which is not proposed in this year's budget.

7. Maureen showed us the work she had been doing to collect the deeds associated with every parcel, by geographic areas. The deeds have also been scanned and can be made available electronically.

8. Next meeting Tuesday, April 12.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.