

Hopkinton Open Space Committee
Tuesday, February 9, 2010

TOWN HALL

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Draft Agenda

Administrative

- Attendance Chapin Klemarczyk, Langwasser Pellerin, Taylor, S. Zankel
- Minutes from January 12, 2009 meeting
- In 2009, we asked the Selectmen to set staggered terms for OSC members. Under that proposal terms expire thus: Chapin and Taylor, 2010; Klemarczyk, 2011; Pellerin & S Zankel, 2012.

Old Business

- Updates on Bohanan project
- Ron – anything new on possible project discussed at last meeting?
- Beyer CE (Dijit)
- Ideas for moving forward (review Don's ideas)
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New Business

- Town meeting

Other

Date for next meeting (& time adjourned)

Format for adjourning to non-public session: xxx made a motion, seconded by xxx to adjourn to non-public meeting per RSA 91 A:3 II (e) Legal. Roll call: Chapin – xxx; Klemarczyk – xxx; Langwasser – xxx; Pellerin – xxx; Taylor – xxx; Zankel – xxx. The Committee adjourned to non-public session at x:xx PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at x:xx PM. Xxx made a motion, seconded by Xxx to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote unanimous in favor.)

I have a number of ideas about the future direction of Open Space as a concept (as well as a committee) here in Hopkinton. The facts are that we have been remarkably successful as a committee and have achieved each of our goals except for GH. Going forward we need to fight to keep the balance of the bond in tact (still almost \$3,000,000)but we must recognize that, as a committee, we have a lot of loose ends. For example, I am not sure which of our purchases have been placed under a conservation easement with Five Rivers. Below are some thoughts that I think need our attention:

- 1) Easement Grants- We need to determine which parcels have not been placed under easement. I think we should place all of our parcels with Five Rivers and do so immediately. We know the management (i.e. Mark and Chuck Knox) and they know us and our town. In order to accomplish this we need the complete cooperation of both the Conservation Commission and the Department of Public Works. We can get their commitment if we start now so DPW can put it in their summer work schedule.
- 2) Signage- Each area should have appropriate signage and parking, if necessary. The signs should be uniform so that they are recognized as identifying Open Space (and town owned) properties. I would suggest using either Morgan Sign from Henniker or Advantage Sign of Concord. Those are two I have worked with in the past and they are both excellent.
- 3) Contracting Services- Hopkinton has enjoyed the luxury of having Ron K. living in town and volunteering most of his services. This is not a healthy long-term arrangement and I think we need to formalize an arrangement with both Ron and his firm. I have never understood why the town seemed to expect Ron to volunteer his time but we have for at least the last ten years. Ron might have to become an advisor to the Conservation Commission and lose his voting status. I don't believe that such a change would have any negative impact on his influence with the CC. It would also allow the town to establish a real schedule for completing projects because we would be contracting to get things done. We would also need to find a source of money. I would look to the CC first.
- 4) Basic Open Space Premises- I also think it might be well to revisit some of our original premises concerning Open Space. For example, there are some small pieces that maybe we should consider such as the Cushing Putney Hill field, river frontage in Contoocook Village, Patenaude field, Chapin field, etc.
- 5) Top Ten List- As suggested by Susan we probably should have a session to develop a Top Ten. I would kick it off by recommending GH, Sandbank Farm and Albin Farm.
- 6) Integration of Town/Open Space- I think we could do a better job of integrating our purchases with other town organizations such as scouts, schools, seniors, historical types, etc. This would give our open space activities real life!!

In any event , what I have written may cause us to modify our direction and be out in front of any criticism that is sure to surface.

Don

(Amy- please pass on to Ron. Thanks, Don)

Reply Reply to all Forward