

Hopkinton Open Space Committee  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023  
Hopkinton Town Hall 7:30 p.m.  
Minutes – Accepted 2/15/23

**Administration**

Present: Dijit Taylor, Lucia Kittredge, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Erin Vanden Borre,  
Absent: Bob LaPree, Sabrina Dunlap

**Old Business**

November 16, 2022 public and non-public minutes were accepted.

Annual Report has been submitted. Thanks to Lucia and Bob.

**Dave and Kathy Dustin**, Lots 224-29 & 225-6 Conservation Easement (Five Rivers): Dijit reported that the Drinking Water Trust Fund awarded the project a grant of \$117,250. Based on the appraisal report and the increase in the project cost, we have requested an additional \$58,000 for a total of approximately \$175,000. We hope to receive confirmation of the additional funds from NH DES in February. We also have an additional grant of \$25,000 to cover transaction cost. The NRCS has reached out to offer additional funding from their NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program. However, this program has so many restrictions and strings attached that it may not be a good match for this project. LCHIP seems like a better source of funds.

**OSC skill sets and succession planning:** Discussed the committee and its establishment at town meeting 2003 as a resource to advise the Select Board on the use of the open space bond. Since 2008 the Select Board has declined to support any use of the open space bond, making the original purpose of the committee irrelevant. However, the committee has identified a number of good conservation projects and obtained grants and other funding to complete the projects. The OSC has many specialized skills and should it disband, it is not clear what group could replace the OSC.

Discussed the skill sets needed for the Committee to function effectively. List attached.

Discussed possible new committee members. Dijit will develop an “elevator speech” for recruiting new members, and approach one particularly qualified candidate.

**Property priority list:** Reviewed the updated list and discussed possible additions to the list. Dijit will further update the list.

**New Business**

**Closer links to the Planning Board:** The Planning Board could be considering developments on OSC priority properties and the OSC would have no idea what was happening. The OSC should know what the Planning Board is doing. Dijit may attend a Planning Board meeting.

## **Updates**

Class VI roads committee: Lucia reported that a portion of Graves Road may be proposed as a Class A trail at town meeting.

Economic Development/Downtowns and Trails UNH study: The committee would like a volunteer from the OSC. Dijit will represent the OSC.

Ron made a motion, seconded by Lucia, to adjourn to non-public meeting per RSA 91 A:3 ii (d) Acquisition of real estate. Vote was unanimous in favor. Committee adjourned to non-public session at 8:57 p.m. Committee returned from non-public session at 9:26 p.m. Ron made a motion, seconded by Lucia, to seal the minutes until the projects discussed become public or are removed from consideration. Vote was unanimous in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rob Knight, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 7:30 p.m.

### **Skills and Interests needed on the Hopkinton Open Space Committee**

**General Qualifications** (Needed by most members of the committee):

Passion for Hopkinton Open Space

Interest in outdoor recreation

Ability to think strategically

Ability to talk to landowners in a non-threatening way

Ability to apply conservation values from OSC checklist to properties

Time to respond quickly to opportunities as they arise

**Specific Skills/Experience** (Needed by one or more members of the committee):

Knowledge of people, land and history in Hopkinton

Conservation and land protection experience and skills

Natural resources background

Fundraising ability: knowledge of sources of grants; ability to write grant proposals

Public relations skills: knowledge of media; ability to prepare press releases; photography skills  
(especially drone)

Public speaking ability and credibility

Legal skills and experience relating to real estate transactions

Connections with conservation partners: Five Rivers Conservation Trust, Hopkinton

Conservation Commission

**Special need:**

Someone to prepare minutes on a timely basis

Someone to prepare monthly agendas and schedule and lead meetings