

**Casco Open Space Commission
Minutes
August 17, 2009
Casco Public Library**

Commissioners present: Barbara York, Grant Plummer, Jim Stepp, Lisa Willey-Critchfield, Eric Dibner

The meeting came to order at 7:05 p.m. The draft agenda distributed by email was adopted by consensus. Commissioners introduced themselves and talked about their reasons for being involved.

The Commission elected officers, as follows: Chair, Grant Plummer; Vice Chair, Lisa Willey-Critchfield; Secretary, Eric Dibner. The Chair will convene and run meetings, the Vice Chair will serve in the Chair's absence, and the Secretary will record meetings and arrange for public notices.

The Commission discussed its charge and various methods available for protecting open space, the importance of community education, options for landowners to consider for preservation, and issues of use and abuse of land open to the public.

The Commission discussed training and orientation events. Commissioners agreed education should be a part of meetings. The Commission would like to have Pam Edwards come and show what information already is available on maps, discuss Town owned lands and what is protected by Loon Echo Land Trust. Eric mentioned the "Forest to Faucet" program and the Crooked River Initiative as presentations that the Commission might want to hear.

Regarding budget, it was moved by Dibner, seconded by Stepp, and approved to request Board of Selectpersons to carry forward the \$4,468 account designated for Open Space, to be used for administrative costs such as mailings, printing, education, maps.

It was agreed to set the meetings for third Mondays at 7:00 at the Library.

Agenda items for the September 21 meeting:

Updates from Commissioners

Presentation by Pam Edwards about available data

Discussion of item for Town meeting -- the \$32,445 Lands Future account

Outreach reports on upcoming educational events

Items for future meetings:

Commission web site

Code of ethics for public users of land

LELT regional conservation planning

Parks and recreation committee