

**Casco Open Space Commission
Minutes
November 15, 2010**

Members Present: Grant Plummer, Eric Dibner, Lisa Willey-Critchfield,
Barbara York
Absent: Jim Stepp

Grant called the meeting to order at 7:06.

Minutes of October 18, 2010 were adopted.

Updates by Commissioners –

The Board of Selectpersons reappointed Barbara York on November 9 to a new term. The Commission wants to clarify with the Board, since COSC seats are three year terms, that this appointment is for that term.

The Commission reviewed the Voting Day “Casco Showcase” display. The event was a success and will be held again next year. Some people stopped at COSC’s display and talked, but more people would be interested if there were a brochure or handout; also a bigger sign would help.

On November 9, Dibner and Plummer made a presentation to the Board of Selectpersons and discussed the Annual Report and future directions. COSC received supportive comments from members of the Board and from the audience.

Land Protection Fund – After another discussion with the Town Manager, Commissioners understand the Fund purposes were not detailed when it was established, other than saving for future land protection expenses, such as a survey or appraisal related to a potential purchase, but not for Commission administration. Commissioners will clarify this in a future report and recommend procedures to ensure Fund is used consistent with its purpose.

Communication plan –

The Commission discussed the revised list of activities and the goals included in the packet. Priority activities would be a brochure, a meeting with the Recreation Director (particularly regarding Town properties), public

events, getting articles in the news, and website improvements. Dibner will include priority actions as part of the Work Plan being drafted. **It was moved, seconded and approved (4-0) to adopt the communication plan.**

Toward creating a brochure, Plummer will contact the Maine Association of Conservation Commission about types of designs and will oversee putting a draft layout together. Willey-Critchfield and Dibner will help prepare content.

For events that will bring the public out, COSC could sponsor educational walks, possibly on the 70-acre parcel, Owl Pond, or to learn about a feature such as under-the-road cattle crossing, foundations and cellar holes of yore, Quaker sites; the point of these to be connections with the land and its values for appreciating open space.

Plummer will attend a meeting about trail construction funding and can talk with the SWOAM Chair about collaboration ideas with COSC, such as managing Town-owned woodlands. The Commission should meet with large landowners, for example Hancock Lumber, who has fostered shared uses of its forested land. What is involved in their managing for recreational use? What are our mutual interests? What are their plans?

COSC maps #1-4 are satisfactory, the Commission agreed, as working documents for discussion. The current maps should be posted on the public website; question asked, whether the website can allow viewers to turn on/off various layers. A bigger map or maps would be useful for public events, including the property lines, but maybe wait until seeing the Greenprint results.

Work plan and budget for FY 2011-2012 – Dibner will create a draft on the same template as last year, based on the proposed and unfinished tasks sent with the agenda packet.

Discussion of Hacker's Hill – COSC questioned who would take leadership, and how the property, if protected, would be maintained. COSC could host a meeting to start the conversation about Town involvement. The appraised value versus the asking price is the sticking point. Dibner will contact Carrie Walia about attending a COSC meeting about what Casco can do.

Re the Town's 70-acre parcel, COSC still needs to view it, by contacting Ed Wade as a guide? Plummer will discuss with Town Office how well defined the r-o-w to the lake is, and whether it needs to be clarified. For a discussion of the Town properties and how COSC can work with Recreation, Willey-Critchfield will invite Beth Latsey to an upcoming meeting; Dibner will send her property maps for the meeting.

Greenprint stakeholder's meeting is November 18, 6:00-8:00, at Sebago Town Office to review the maps being developed.

Next COSC meeting will be December 20, 2010.

Possible agenda items –

Guest – Beth, Carrie

Brochure ideas

Draft work plan

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04.