

**Casco Open Space Commission
Minutes
November 16, 2009
Casco Public Library**

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

Absent: Jim Stepp

Others present: Pamela Edwards, Pixie Williams, Nadia Hermos

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes of October 19, 2009 and the Notes from October 16 were approved (Abstain: York).

Procedure for public participation at meetings –

Suggestions included a time for open comments on the agenda at the outset, time on each agenda item, and/or Chair's discretion. Eric will circulate a recommendation to the Commissioners.

Nadia and Pixie raised concern about overlap of the Commission work with that of the Casco Conservation Committee, on which they sit. It was agreed to share minutes, Eric will add them to the e-mail list, and the Committee will provide them to Georgette Burgess. The Committee meets the first Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Library.

Commission's charge/mission –

To give some context, Pam walked the Commission through the 2003 Comprehensive Plan's survey results (pp. 237-242), the Plan overview (pp. 9-13), and the 2006 Open Space Plan (OSP). The survey showed less support for recreation than for protecting natural resources. The OSP focused on large blocks of land, with some exceptions. The OSP and the Ordinance indicate what the Commission "shall" and "should" do, *i.e.*, required or optional actions.

The Commission discussed the Ordinance's intent in relation to a mission statement and issues of public access to land.

Pam distributed “Vision, Mission, Goals & Objectives...Oh My!” for study before the next meeting. It was agreed a decision about the Commission’s mission should be made when all Commissioners can be present.

Start developing inventory criteria –

What we have: list of Town-owned property; large property owners; focus areas in OSP map; GIS data and maps, including Beginning with Habitat. Areas/criteria not well mapped: some sensitive areas in need of protection; vernal pools; agriculture lands; recreation areas; view points.

An initial question should be why we want criteria and how we will use them. Eric said TPL Greenprint project will also be developing an inventory, and that effort could provide a basis for the Commission’s.

TPL Greenprint project –

Barbara announced the Board of Selectmen (BOS) had approved placing the project before the June Town Meeting. The BOS did not decide to go ahead with any funding at this time. She said they wanted to ask TPL to come back and talk with the BOS.

Suggestions about potential stakeholders, participants in the project: Crooked River snowmobile, ATV club, horse people, school board, lakes associations, hunters, farmers, cross-county ski coach Gloria Verrill, Tim or Joan Porta, Steve Linee, Bob Fernel, Grant Plummer, Barbara York, Katie or John England, Bev White, Kelly or Barbara Simpson, Skip Watkins, Lew Wetzel, Tom or Holly Hancock, Kevin Hancock, Merrill Rollins, Deb Keefe, Sam or Amy Store, Betty Lervey, Ruth Dean and John Slobad.

Commission web page – Grant and Lisa will talk to David about having an active site.

Lands Future account (\$32,445) – Not discussed

Pixie said MeACC, Maine Association of Conservation Commissions, cost the Town something to join, and the Commission should find out if it is a member and what our participation should be. Nadia will continue to forward announcements she gets from them.

Approved 12/21/09

The next meeting will be 12/21/09.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.