

Casco Open Space Commission Meeting Minutes – Final

Meeting Date: March 19, 2018

Call to Order: ~ 6:45 P.M.

Present: Open Space – Acting Chairman Keith Morehouse, Tom Peaslee and Eric Dibner

Current Agenda and December Minutes: Eric moved approval, Tom seconded – all approved.

Old Business:

State Park Road Sale Offer; Keith advised that he again had made phone contact with the three property owners and they responded that they were still “good” with what they knew about the actions to-date regarding the effort to move their lands into a conservation status with the Town of Casco.

Status of 2017 Annual Report; The 2017 Annual Report has been completed and posted on the Open Space Commission’s section of the Town’s website/homepage. The change in the Annual Report regarding the current effort to review and possibly recommend changes to the Open Space Plan and Open Space Ordinance, noted in the February minutes, was completed.

Open Space Budget Request; The Commission members discussed the Open Space budget that had been forwarded to the Town Manager and Select Board following the last COSC meeting. The Open Space budget was not an item of business at the Finance Committee meeting on March 14, which was largely “housekeeping,” so the Commission will have to wait for a later scheduling.

Open Space Ordinance and Open Space Plan; Again, Commission members discussed briefly the review of these two documents; however, we feel we should have the full group to adequately deal with the review; it is anticipated that could happen as early as the April meeting. However, making a Town Meeting in June may be problematic.

Landowner Letter Distribution to Focus Area Landowners; The group decided that this item would be taken-up in a more serious manner at the beginning of summer, likely May or June.

New Business:

Open Space Warrants for Town Meeting; Very briefly, this was about trying to anticipate what the Open Space-related warrants might be for the Town Meeting in June. Largely conjecture!

Town Meeting Information Supporting Open Space; The discussion involved what, if anything, can the Commission do to provide supporting information to attendees and potential attendees about the warrants and how approval would help to further the cause of conserving open space in Casco.

Miscellaneous Discussion; Members reviewed the situation with regard to Owl Pond and what is needed to reach out again to landowners to gain support for open space there. There was also a question of what amount had been realized from the timber harvest on the Town’s State Park Road property.

Public Participation: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned about 8:17 P.M., with unanimous approval. The next scheduled COSC meeting is April 16, 2018, at 6:30 P.M., in the Town Center meeting room.

Submitted by Keith A. Morehouse