

Casco Open Space Commission Meeting Minutes – Final

Meeting Date: May 21, 2018

Call to Order: ~ 6:40 P.M.

Present: Open Space – Chairwoman Barbara York, Tom Peaslee, Frank Kantor and Keith Morehouse

Current Agenda and April 23 Minutes: Frank moved approval, Tom seconded – all present approved.

Old Business:

Town Meeting; Commission members discussed the Town Meeting date and voting dates. Members reviewed the preparations that were ongoing for the COSC-related items to be presented at the meeting, including – introduction of articles, speaker(s), maps, newspaper article(s) and the warrant articles language. There was also a short discussion about the Select Board meeting to be held on the 22nd, and the likelihood that the warrant articles information would only become public after that date since the warrant needs to be approved by the Select Board and has not as yet.

Revised Landowner Letter; The draft revised landowner letter was discussed. Since Focus Area lands are the priority, this simple revision is meant to be directed specifically at Focus Area landowners and was circulated to members for review prior to the meeting. Members present all said that the draft met the intentions of the Commission, i.e., going forward, to concentrate efforts on open space in the focus areas that might be available for conservation. The letter will be presented to the Town Office with a list of addresses, along with a request for mailing.

Conservation Easement; There was discussion of the previously viable opportunity to have a first conservation easement in a Focus Area; however, the landowner has apparently abandoned the initiative. Cost of executing an agreement and tax advantage information was developed and provided to the landowner in a recent letter. The landowner was also advised that Commission members continue to be available to help in the process - the ball is in the landowner's court.

Miscellaneous; The group discussed the property situation at Owl Pond, additional property on the Heath that is for sale, a Request For Proposal on the biological survey of the Hwy. 302 property and review of the Open Space Policy and Open Space Ordinance. The Policy and Ordinance will be taken up again by the Commission after the Town Meeting in June.

New Business:

Barbara said she would provide an email to David and the Select Board regarding our desire to have the Tom Peaslee assignment with the Commission extended. Tom works well with Commission members, and often provides unique and important perspectives on issues. Tom, apparently, is amenable to having his participation with the Commission continue.

Public Participation: No public attendees.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned about 8:05 P.M., with unanimous approval – after Frank moved and Tom seconded adjournment. The next scheduled COSC meeting is June 18, 2018, at 6:30 P.M., in the Town Center meeting room.

Submitted by Keith A. Morehouse