

Casco Open Space Commission
Minutes Draft
August 17, 2015

Present: Eric Dibner, Frank Kantor, Keith Morehouse, Barbara York
Nadia Hermos-Conservation Committee
Sheila Bourque-Raymond Community Forest Steering Committee

Agenda - Elect Chair and Secretary moved to September meeting.

July minutes approved - Barbara York moved, Keith Morehouse seconded, Vote 3-0- 1.

Sheila Bourque presented a community based initiative – the Raymond Community Forest Project – and distributed materials about it. More information is available at: <http://www.raymondmaine.org/content/raymond-community-forest-project-protecting-our-lakes-forestry-legacy>

The property consists of 350 acres on Conesca Road east of Crescent Lake, including the top of Pismire Mountain. The property is being sold by Hancock Land Company and is under contract to Loon Echo Land Trust, which is working on fundraising with Raymond community groups, including Raymond Conservation Commission. Although not in Casco, protection of the property for traditional uses, recreation, open space, and forestry will benefit Casco residents and the Crescent Lake watershed.

Sheila said projects such as this land acquisition require:

- A partner who has contacts and expertise, such as Loon Echo Land Trust
- Establishing a steering committee - Raymond Steering Committee is 8-12 people
- Involve Road Associations, who could give local support and recognition
- Keeping track of who you send information to and who responds
- Creating a sense of ownership of the project
- Accountability
- Setting deadlines

Sheila Bourque asks for support from Open Space Commission and to spread word of this project. A large part of the funding plan included funds promised by Lands for Maine's Future, but those are now in question, due to the Governor's suspension of LMF.

Walk is scheduled for Casco's 51-acre parcel on State Park Road on September 19, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Public is invited. Need to show people and committees what is there, get their input and make plans. Contact Parks and Recreation Committee, announce on web site, contact newspapers, Eric will contact State Park and Portland Water District.

Next meeting – September agenda to include Grant Plummer's position, Elect chair and secretary, Owl Pond, Foreclosed Property List, Don Murphy – GIS presentation. Report on 51-acre property walk; report to Board of Selectman regarding Raymond Community Forest Project.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm