

## Casco Open Space Commission Meeting – Final

Meeting Date: October 17, 2016

Present: Open Space – Chairwoman Barbara York, Frank Kantor, Eric Dibner, Thomas Peaslee, and Keith Morehouse; Lyman Stuart – Town Webmaster; Conservation Committee – Nadia Hermos.

Review Agenda: Two changes were made in the agenda, one to include a consultation with the Town's webmaster concerning re-vamping our page on the Town's site and the other to discuss review status of the COSC ordinance and open space plans. The Town Comprehensive Plan review status was also mentioned.

September COSC Meeting Minutes: Eric moved approval, Frank seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Before any further business, the Town's webmaster and COSC members discussed establishing a website features design which will allow the Commission to post both current and other relevant open space-related documents, e.g., letter to landowners, the latest annual report, the open space ordinance and plan, etc. There was general agreement with the end result.

Old Business: Jackson Property – Frank Kantor was approved as the COSC representative to the Jackson property work group. Keith moved, Barbara seconded, and all approved.

~51- and ~69-Acre Parcels – Essentially discussed as one subject. The most recent email from Lost Corner Surveys indicates that the 51-acre, State Park Road, survey was completed and the plan is expected to be completed the week of October 17<sup>th</sup>. A plan revision was completed for the 69-acre parcel to incorporate some additional marker information, two full-sized plans (updated) will be delivered to the Town/COSC. The surveyor commented in an email that an "aggressive abutter" on Lakewood Road pulled out survey markers after they were placed – a single replacement marker has been placed back where it will not be readily detected. Keith has agreed to be responsible for researching management plan outlines for both areas.

Crooked River Properties - Keith will draft an email to David and the Board of Selectpersons (BOS) for Barbara's signature, after COSC review, indicating "no interest" in the 930 Roosevelt Trail parcel. Also, COSC suggests that when the old Hwy. 302 bridge is removed that this property, nearby 930 Roosevelt Trail, can be dedicated to Town open space as river access. The letter will, nevertheless, express our wish that in both situations protection of the river is of primary concern.

Letters - Review of the letter(s) to be sent to responders; Eric's general letter approved and ready to be sent to several landowners. Keith's letter to the State Park Road owners will be

revised to put the response in a more hopeful light and add information suggesting a potential alternative solution. Barbara will sign the letters for COSC.

New Business: Scoring Land for Protection – A scoring system to prioritize acquisition and/or protection of open space lands needs to be addressed. This should be done in the context of what is required in The Open Space Plan and the Open Space Ordinance. Also, the group needs to look more closely at the two plans to see what changes need to be made, if any, in them and what the implications are for a scoring/priority system. Some mention was made briefly of the Comprehensive Plan and whether or not it will be updated any time soon. Someone may have said that it had been mentioned and would be addressed by BOS.

Public Participation: We were again prompted to review the Owl Pond and environs protection concerns, and possible measures we could take to help it along. There is a need to hear back in the near future about the Jackson property, e.g., how is the committee to be constituted, when and where will it meet and how will it function. Also, COSC re-visited the situation with regard to the property for sale on the southeast(?) side of Mayberry Hill Road that, although not immediately, leads into the Pine Hill/Owl Pond/Heath Focus Area. This is an example of an undeveloped area providing a corridor that links other properties to the focus areas, and is worthy of consideration for purchase if the asking price is reasonable and COSC funds are available.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Submitted by Keith A. Morehouse