

Casco Open Space Commission  
Minutes (Draft)  
September 21, 2015

Present: Barbara York, Frank Kantor, Keith Morehouse, Thomas Peaslee (Select Board); Nadia Hermos from the Conservation Committee; and Don Murphy, Town of Casco Code Enforcement Officer. Peter Troy (observer) also attended the first hour.

Absent: Eric Dibner and Grant Plummer.

Barbara York, Acting Chair, brought the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. There ensued a brief round of introductions that resulted from the possibility that Thomas Peaslee could join the Commission in lieu of Grant Plummer as a representative of the Select Board. Barbara then stated that the remaining part of the agenda would be pursued after Don Murphy's presentation – which would be about 1 hour.

GIS PRESENTATION: Don's presentation was a relatively quick overview of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and the benefits this expanding computer-based technology has brought to virtually all aspects of "land science," and the potential it has for use in open space and other land use matters in the Town of Casco. The technology already is available vis-à-vis Town Office personnel and is being selectively employed, although there is no dedicated position for this. However, it is possible to contract for services. Examples of items which were discussed are: GIS def., data points and digitization; State of Maine GIS capabilities; use of Google Earth; USDA and USGS data overlays; vernal pool mapping, as an example; features that COSC might want to have attached to a foreclosure list; LIDAR (light detection and ranging radar) for land contours – including subsurface; GNIS (Geographic Names Info. System); and data-layering. COSC is appreciative of Don's time and expertise and his concise presentation.

MINUTES: August COSC meeting minutes were approved, without amendment. Motion by York and seconded by Morehouse, Vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS: Grant Plummer's seat will very likely be filled by Tom Peaslee, although not solid, as the Select Board will have to approve the change.

Chair and Secretary positions selections are deferred until the October meeting when, hopefully, all will be in attendance.

Owl Pond/Pine Hill area -- There will be an attempt to schedule a walk of COSC and interested others into and around Owl Pond soon, perhaps on a Sunday to

avoid a hunting day. There will be an attempt to make suitable notification of owners (Kevin Hancock and Georgette Sanders). Barbara will send an email to Jeff Hall, for Kevin Hancock, and also invite Pam Edwards. Barbara advised that she had been successful in contacting Georgette's attorney, and had explained our protection intentions. Barbara believed that the attorney was sincere, seemed "nice," and was surprised that Georgette had not responded to Barbara's earlier note, but said he would follow-up with Georgette about a response. Barbara said she would also give Georgette a few days to get back.

The Raymond Community Forest Project Resolution was discussed. It was urged that this material be forwarded to the Select Board ASAP. Kantor made a motion and Morehouse seconded that the Raymond Project briefing materials provided by Sheila Bourque be included as supplementary information when the resolution is presented to the Select Board.

Barbara distributed the foreclosure list. There was a longer discussion about foreclosed properties, the list and when and how COSC factors into the deliberations on the fate of potential open space locations. COSC would like to be provided the list as early as possible and then it should send a recommendation to the Select Board regarding the potential for any property(s) on the list to be dedicated to open space.

**SITE WALK OF 09/19/15 ON 51 ACRE PARCEL ON STATE PARK ROAD:** Eric's thorough site walk report was distributed by Barbara and discussion followed. A suggestion was made that a recommendation should be sent to the Select Board with regard to what problems were uncovered during the walk and what actions should be taken to resolve same. Major items identified were: a boulder barricade is needed for the entrance since the second entry point had been bypassed, a more complete and systematic marking of boundaries, and signage posted which identifies the area as Town of Casco property and also prohibits campfires and camping.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The Commission would like to make special mention of Grant Plummer's thoughtful and often inspired representation, and thank him for his many years of service with our group.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None. However, it was noted at this point that we still have not provided our "Letter to Landowners" on the preservation of open space.

**ADJOURN:** The COSC meeting was adjourned shortly after 9:00 p.m.