

## Casco Open Space Commission Meeting - Final

Meeting Date: September 19, 2016

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

Review Agenda: No changes came forward for the meeting agenda

September Minutes: Eric moved approval, Barb seconded and they were unanimously approved

Old Business: Jackson Prop. - Someone for the use group will be appointed from COSC, the question re. how participation was being advertised could not be answered. No committee yet. Nadia raised the possibility of invasive plants and wild flowers on the property. Other conversations touched on; amount of the bond and bond company, bond intended for multiple purposes (~\$3.5 million), Town Hall maintenance, keeping property intact, replenishment of COSC funds post-purchase, generally – how to solicit funds for open space and Grange Hall preservation.

Boundary Surveys. 51-Acre Parcel – Prob. not done or started, status unknown. 69.1- Acre Parcel (aka 71-acre) done, with documents submitted, but prob. not an invoice as yet.

Ring Landing Road. There was an access/use discussion regarding the 69.1-acre parcel. No legal access off Ring Landing Road, but there is at least one deeded access off Lakewood. Logging, lake access, path development, local use, and parking area(s) were items mentioned. Selectboard should be given a recommendation, at some point, as to what it should be used for, how it should be used and by whom it should be managed. Keith volunteered to research and develop a management plan precursor that could be expanded by COSC.

COSC List of “To Do” Items. The group went item-by-item through the list. Stand-out/priority items would include; a White Paper on open space parcel management that would likely come more clearly into focus as we do a review of the COSC charter for any needed changes, Owl Pond and the continuing need to get formal landowner buy-in for long-term protection, an annual schedule/calendar of COSC tasks, Eric’s draft generic letter to landowners responding to the landowner open space letter and the need for Landowner Letter availability in relation to the Casco Town Office move .

New Business: This discussion involved the possible need to develop a scoring system for open space land acquisition based on protection priorities, some of which would logically come out of the COSC charter document.

Public Participation: The group briefly discussed a subject brought up by Nadia, i.e., the potential for invasive plants to be found on the Jackson property – a subject mentioned earlier in the meeting. Sow thistle and other invasive plants were mentioned.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Submitted: Keith A. Morehouse