

**Casco Open Space Commission  
Minutes  
February 23, 2015**

**Present:** Eric Dibner, Frank Kantor, Keith Morehouse

**Absent:** Grant Plummer, Barbara York

**Public:** Nadia Hermos

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes from December 15, 2014 and January 19, 2015 were adopted.

2016 Budget: For a land protection fund, the Town should have a goal of \$250,000 available. Incremental saving will make it easier to acquire protection of open space when it is needed. In 2016, protection (such as an easement) in the focus areas, which the Commission has been reviewing, will be a good possibility.

Outreach to landowners: Materials for mailings will be a cover letter, a brochure, and links for more information. "Land Conservation" booklet should be available. The mailing will describe COSC's purposes and mission statement; explain that if you want to protect property, there are ways to do it; and list some options and opportunities and resources. Mailing should be around Town Meeting time.

The Land Trust Alliance offers a course on estate tax issues (March 3) about the basic requirements for deductibility and taxes for charitable donations.

For the Portland Water District presentation: Materials/ideas for contacting PWD:

1. Pine Hill/Owl Pond area maps and description
2. Two Town properties being protected – COSC's interest in conservation and public use
3. What mechanisms does PWD offer landowners or for the Town
4. Send a letter to Paul Hunt requesting help with developing our plan.

Conservation Committee, discussion of working together: Could COSC use a conservation arm? Education is within our purpose. But the effort needs more people; the CCC has not had the five-person membership called for by the Town. Would a single-purpose working group make sense, and would invasive plants be within COSC jurisdiction?

COSC should look into having an alternate member who could vote when a regular member is absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.