

Minutes of the Open Space Committee, January 20, 2011

The meeting convened at 4:09 in the Caucus Room and ended at 5:22

Attending: Dave Hale, Steve Milkewicz, Hank Janowsky,
and Dennis Minsky (recording);

also present for the last few minutes of the meeting: Jonathan Sinaiko

Hale moved, and Janowsky seconded, to approve the minutes of both the regular and executive session meetings of December 6, 2010; the motion passed, 3-0-1.

There was a discussion of the Greenway Project, which was initiated by a vote at the April 2010 Town Meeting. Minsky and Hale reported on a meeting with Brian Carlson and David Gardner (and Americorps volunteer Mark Pfeiffer), at which the following points were made:

1-the Open Space Committee is not a regulatory board and therefore can not pass restrictions or laws preventing development

2-our best option is to amend the current Open Space Plan to include a precise definition and description of the "Greenway" and get that amendment approved by the Board of Selectmen.

3-to that end, Pfeiffer presented maps of the Route 6 corridor and properties abutting it; it was agreed that there needed to be refinements of that material and Pfeiffer is working on those for the upcoming Conservation Commission meeting.

4-activity in the "Greenway" is already subject to the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act and local bylaws and regulations; another layer of restrictions, if necessary, would be the purview of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Minsky reported that the Board of Selectmen approved the Land Bank budget for fiscal year 2011 at an earlier meeting.

There was a discussion of the need for additional signs at the Old Colony Nature Pathway, Suzanne's Garden, and the B Street Community Garden. Jonathan Sinaiko has been contacted for his input for the Suzanne's Garden interpretive sign.

There was a discussion about whether expenditures for conservation restrictions, if the committee undertook to underwrite a property owner's expenses, would have to be approved at Town Meeting; the consensus was that they would, but this will be investigated.

The committee worked on the wording of the annual report and approved a letter to property owners with property of potential interest to the Open Space Plan; these letters will be distributed in the coming week.

There was a general discussion of various properties of interest, but no specific actions were approved.

There was consensus that the next meeting would be scheduled when there were issues that warranted discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22