

Columbia Open Space Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Ann Dunnack, at 8:00 AM.

Present: Don Schofield, Shirley King, Paul Ramsey, Walt Tabor, Joan Hill, Chris Tolsdorf and Ann Dunnack

Guests: town Administrator Mark Walter, Don Cianci and Kelly Boling

Approval of August minutes

Paul introduced our guest from The Trust For Public Land, Kelly Boling

Old Business:

Mr. Walter distributed handouts with financial updates on Open Space funds. He also updated information on the pending contract with the Oberlander family.

New Business:

Kelly Boling described what his non- profit organization, The Trust for Public Land, does and the goals they have for land preservation. Paul gave an overview of the Wells Wood area and the 9 properties that are included. One suggestion from Mr. Boling was to develop a Community Forest which would preserve the land while also generating moneys for the town through logging and other sustainable activities.

Paul asked what the Trust for Public Land can do for us. They play an advisory role to Town Officials, support marketing campaigns, assist in Federal Forestry Legacy applications, and act as the agent for land exchanges. The main concern at this time is having a significant number of the 9 owners who are willing to sell. There is no fee for their participation and they will pay for legal advice as well as survey fees.

At the end of this meeting, Paul will show Mr. Boling the area under discussion and Mr. Boling will then assess the interest of our elected officials and send a White Paper on this type project.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley King, secretary