

Columbia Open Space Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Dunnack at 8:02 AM.

Present: Ann Dunnack, Joan Hill, Shirley King, Paul Ramsey, Don Schofield, Don Cianci seated for Chris Tolsdorf.

Approval of December 21, 2017 minutes

Old Business: Paul reported on a conversation he had with a property owner in the Wells Woods who may be willing to sell if the price is right. This is not a high priority property at this point unless of course it is an outright donation. Honor heard from Mr. Jacques and he is still interested in developing his property at this time. We need to keep in mind that Honor is the only person authorized by the BOS to directly speak with and negotiate with property owners.

Ann reported that the Oberlanders are still in probate and she will, again, ask the town attorney to follow up with the family. They need to be reminded that the current agreement expires on April 1' 2018.

New Business: Ann reported that the leadership of Joshua Trust has changed and this may open up new opportunities for moneys for specific projects. Joan emphasized the need for BOS support prior to our seeking funds from outside sources. New BOS member Lisa Napolitano has requested a detailed list of all Open Space in town. This is not clear as to what exactly she wants so Ann will clarify and speak to the Town planner. All agree that a presentation of Open Space goals is necessary every time the town boards change members. Mark Walter communicated to Ann that we need more visibility of our Open Space properties in town. Ann will ask the Szegda Farm committee to write an article for the next edition of Columbia Views. There is signage at all trails in town.

On March 10, Mark Walters's daughter will be presenting at Yeoman Hall describing her thru hike on the Appalachian Trail. We will be setting up an informational booth.

Paul expressed three issues he feels need to be focused on at this time: 1-that Mark prod the town attorney to contact the Oberlander family again concerning the April date; 2-that Mark, Honor and an Open Space rep meet with the Hebron Open Space committee concerning intentions on the Jacques property and 3- Mark make contact with Mrs. Robinson on her intentions.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 AM

Submitted by Shirley King secretary