

Columbia Open Space Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Dunnack at 8:10 AM.

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

Guests: Mark Walter Town Administrator, Ernie Sharpe, Chairman of FIPAC

Approval of November 16, 2017 minutes

**Old Business:** Paul reported on his conversation with Honor Lawler from the Trust for Public Land. We may not count on using State land such as Mono Pond property as access for Open Space lands. She suggested that in light of the letter from Hebron Open Space that we reopen talks with Mr. Jacques. Mark would need a directive from the BOS to do this. Paul moved that we recommend "The Town Administrator meet with the Trust for Public Land and Hebron Open Space to discuss the Jacques property, then open discussions with Mr. Jacques and ask the BOS to respond to the Hebron letter." Joan 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed.

Mark reported that the Oberlanders are still in probate and he will ask the Town Attorney to follow up with the family.

**New Business:** Ann asked to add the Cobb property to the agenda. Ann was approached by the owner to explore ways for her to raise moneys to assist in some needed projects on the farm. The 140 acres are 60% Columbia Lake watershed and 40% Andover Lake watershed. Paula is evaluating the soils to determine priorities and Walt offered to talk to the owner concerning ways to access State and or Federal assistance.

The Ramm brothers contacted Paula about the town acquiring the easement they own in Wells Woods. Ann will contact Chris to schedule a site walk and then we will advise the BOS on the possible value of this land to the town. Don and Walt do not see the value to the town but if it provides access to Wells Woods, Joan and Paul feel it is worth checking out.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 AM

Submitted by Shirley King secretary