

Columbia Open Space Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 15, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Dunnack at 8:01 AM.

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

Approval of May 21, 2017 minutes

Audience of citizens: Don Cianci, Mark Walter, Mary LaValle

Ms LaValle asked if we could advise her on how the Open Space Committee was first formed since she would like to see something similar in her town of Eastford. Ann and Joan agreed to meet with her and will set up a convenient time.

Old Business: Paul reported on his conversation with Kelly Bolling from the Trust for Public Land. Kelly will be meeting along with Mark Walter with a member of the Lucarelli family next week. Kelly will begin contacting the land owners soon.

Mark updated the committee on the progress with the Oberlander property. Once Probate is cleared, the land will be surveyed. A land management plan needs to be developed. **The committee requests that the Oberlander deed include a restriction to Open space use. Mark will research the language.**

Joan asked if the town could ask permission to access the land for a Walktober event prior to finalizing the sale. Mark was also asked if signage and tree removal from a path could take place ASAP.

The town meeting to vote on the land purchase was reviewed with a report that over 100 citizens attended with the positive vote by a vast majority.

New Business: Ann asked Mark who would be responsible for developing the land management plan for the Oberlander property. The Board of Selectmen will need to appoint a committee which will probably involve Open Space members as well as other interested citizens. Discussion took place concerning possible parking options for access to the property.

**Chris moved and Joan 2<sup>nd</sup> “that we recommend to the Board of Selectmen that we have an alternate position on Open Space”. The motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM

Submitted by Shirley King Secretary

