

Members present: Brian Reynolds, Joan Morton, Mike Schroeder, Linda Grubb, Mike Renzi, Don Foster

Non-member present: Julie Leonard (Middleborough Gazette)

Member absent: Dan Hopkins

Minutes for December read. Some corrections made and comment made that there are still questions as to whether cold water stream issues with Harding Street development have been settled. Brian moved to approve minutes ; Joan seconded. Minutes approved. Clerk noted that all minutes through November 2010 have been emailed to Selectmen's secretary.

Island Terrace proposal to use Betty's Neck parcel for septic system was discussed. Concerns about proposal were expressed: septic is one of expressly prohibited uses; would have negative impact on the open space nature of the parcel therefore prohibited; removal of CR would be complicated by need for approval from Conservation Commission, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Park Department, Town Meeting, and, by a two-thirds vote, the State Legislature; as Commonwealth owns the CR, compensation to State might be required; extinguishing CR would open door for possible expansion in the future and encourage others to put pressure on restricted land; Island Terrace may have other options; \$100,000 does not seem to be much, more needed to compensate for loss of protected open space. In general it was brought out that CR's are to be respected. Noted that this parcel, which was held by The Trust for Public Land as collateral for loan, has separate CR put on it before TPL returned it to the Town. Linda circulated copy of the CR and EOEEA Art. 97 land policy and emphasized that process needs be done correctly if Town chooses to approve island Terraces proposal. Mike S. to draft memo to Board of Selectmen.

Mike Renzi presented draft outdoor lighting by-law. He suggested use of Acton by-law which stipulates "cut-offs" for the reach of lighting. It was noted that this would be a general by-law and probably only enforceable for new construction. (Action mandates conformance by existing lighting, but this is not enforced.) Don recommended that Mike come up with a one-page handout explaining light pollution concerns to be used as a public education tool. Mike will bring final draft of by-law to next meeting.

Open Space Plan:

Historical Commission approves plan, but wants historical town hall building to be called TheTown House.

Park Department needs to submit Americans with Disabilities Act data.

Noted that Table 9 needs to indicate what the Town actually needs for recreation facilities as the general public cannot use the School facilities. Decided that Table will remove School facilities from Table 9 numbers but will report them in a footnote to the table.

Code reform documents, Phase 2 of Taunton River Watershed Management Plan, not available yet.

No action yet on Harding Street Property.

Mail: Wildlands Newsletter received

Conflict of interest forms distributed. Online Test required by all committee members.

Application form for UMASS Keystone Project training program at the Harvard Forest was circulated. Applicants may be forest owners or community leaders.

Memo from Rita: Annual Report to be handed in by Feb 24 for completion in Town Report. Linda wants to revise 2010 to emphasize that Committee is not opposed to development but promotes development appropriate to the conservation of our resources. Report will indicate that we will now be implementing new plan. Mike S. will write draft of 2011 report.

Nancy Durfee of SRPEDD wants input of problems of revising Open Space Plan. Noted that revising was often confusing and we might have done better to start over, following new format and using old plan as a resource.

Rezoning request for Bartlett property on Bedford Street: It was discussed that the area has a lot of wetland, lies over an aquifer, and is in Priority/Estimated Habitat. Trout have been reported in the stream that crosses the property. Noted that an agreement was made at time of driveway construction and wetland crossing that development would be limited to one residence. It was discussed that there is no reason to rescind agreement as property still has same sensitivities. Noted also that graveling has been done on the site. Also noted that property cannot connect to Town's other industrial property because railroad crossings not allowed. Don, Linda, and Mike S. will check records to find out what was nature of agreement Mike S. will draft comment to Planning Board expressing Committee's opposition to re zoning parcel to industrial.

Don moved to adjourn; Joan Morton seconded. Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm.

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