

Open Space Committee December 6, 2007 7:00 pm

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

Members absent: Brian Reynolds (with prior notification), Barry Evans

Minutes for November 15 were read. Joan move to accept with corrections. Linda, stepping down as chair, seconded. Vote unanimous.

Brief review of charge. Present focus needs to be getting the plan up to date.

Need for copies of old plan addressed. Cost of reproducing is \$33. We will see if any members of original committee will give us their copies. Don loaded electronic form of final copy of 2001 plan onto Mike's computer.

Memo requesting notification of any deed restrictions, etc. arising out of permitting process before town boards has been sent to Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Board of Health. Mike was instructed to send it also to Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, and Building Inspector.

Proposal for development of Heritage Hill lots as Form A lots was discussed. It will be going before ZBA as original special permit said there would be no further subdivision. It was noted that an earlier OS Plan stated the golf course needed to be under restriction. In discussion of "30-year rule" invoked by Heritage Hill owner, Committee considered our need for better legal understanding. Don recommended we devise wording for what we want to know and present it to town counsel.

[Would this do: We would like for town counsel to meet with us to explain the different types of property use limitations (deed restrictions, covenants, easements, etc.) imposed by or granted to our various town boards or other bodies in the permitting processes. We want to understand the nature of such limitations and the possibility and process of reversing them as we have been charged with establishing a system for keeping track of them.]

Planning Board will send a copy of the approved covenant on John Broden's Howland Road subdivision to the Open Space Committee.

Changes needed for Section 3 Community Setting were discussed, but no final list made. Historical information needs to be broadened to include all parts of town. Major changes in land use as Betty's Neck protection, recreational access to pond shores, public buildings on Ted Williams camp land, zoning bylaw changes and development around rail station need to be mentioned. Statistics need to be updated. Mike suggested that Linda and Joan make changes needed for history and that Tracy be used as resource for figures. It was decided any use of Town personnel needs to be cleared with Rita first. Also while we might all participate in a red-lining process, there needs to be consistency in writing, at least consistency in editing. Committee decided to get new survey out as soon as possible. In discussion of how to proceed quickly at low cost, Don proposed online survey using students to put it together. We might be able to put announcement of on-line survey in mailing of next tax bill. An article by Cindy Dow could help with publicity. Hard copies would be placed in library and town hall. Don will investigate possibility of using students.

We compared model survey and survey used for 2001 plan. Simplifying for electronic use was discussed but we still need to decide the extent we will rewrite survey.

Linda reviewed tour presenting rail extension possibilities. Any extension will have considerable consequences for Lakeville and other towns such as Middleboro have interests that may not coincide with ours.

Linda announced the following:

The next Civic Engagement meeting for the rail extension project will be January 15 at the Norton Public Library.

TRWA's next free training session for municipal boards, this one on open space and recreation plans, will be January 5, 2008 9am-12 noon in West Bridgewater, at the Howard School Cafeteria, 70 Howard Street. Pre-registration required at least seven days in advance at 966-393-TRWA or via email at www.campaign@savethetauton.org.

Committee reviewed request for support for the Environmental Bond Bill sent out by MACC and all present signed the form letter. Mike will mail it in.

Time of adjournment not noted.