

Lebanon Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting, 12/6/10

Minutes

Call to order, 4:31 p.m.

Members present: Keith Laporte, David Scata, Jan Fitter, Howard Wayland, Jon Slate, Toni Willard

Members absent: Marc Lang, Emery Gluck, Alton Blodgett

Also present: Town Planner Phil Chester

Jon and Toni were seated as acting alternates. Motion to approve minutes of 11/1/10 regular meeting seconded and passed unanimously. No audience present.

Motion to add 2010 budget to agenda; seconded and passed unanimously.

The balance of the Open Space Fund is \$155,000. Phil reported that the State wants the Town to fund appraisals, etc., for property 10-D. This will exhaust the existing allocation for appraisals, etc., authorized at Town Meeting. Motion (JF) to request to Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and the next Town Meeting to release \$40,000 from the Open Space Fund for use to pay for appraisals, surveys, and legal costs associated with open space preservation; seconded (HW) and passed unanimously.

The State Dept. of Agriculture will want the Town to provide a 25% match for preservation of property 10-D. The amount is unknown pending appraisals, but it is unlikely that the current balance of the Open Space Fund will cover it.

Phil gave members copies of the 2010 POCD. It was noted and discussed that the Plan (p. 40, Recommendation 1) recommends a working balance of \$500,000 in the Open Space Fund and that the Conservation Commission is included among bodies charged with implementing this recommendation. In this context, our recommendation for the 2010 Town allocation to the Open Space Fund was discussed.

Motion (DS) to request to Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Town Meeting that \$100,000 be allocated as non-recurring capital expense to preserve open space (i.e., Open Space Fund) in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Phil reported that the application for the 2011 Ag. Viability Grant has been submitted.

Property 10-H is no longer interested in pursuing preservation at this time.

Consensus that the Conservation Commission cannot recommend purchase of property 10-1 to the Board of Selectmen. The property's very low resource value and unlikely benefit to townspeople do not justify such a recommendation.

Hikers who offered feedback on the Commons Hill Trail indicated that additional blazing and a sign may be needed, as well as, possibly, a map at the trailhead. We will address this in the spring.

Plaque is ready and we need to host an unveiling ceremony at an appropriate location. We will designate a date in January.

Motion (JF) to recommend to the Selectmen that the land preservation plaque be located in the Town Hall lobby; seconded (JS) and passed unanimously.

Motion (HW) to adjourn at 5:31 p.m., seconded (DS) and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Fitter, Sec'y