

Wednesday, June 25th, 2014
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Barrington Elementary School Annex – Board Room
572 Calef Highway
Barrington, NH

1. Welcome & Introductions

Sam Boduch called the meeting to order at 6:35. In attendance were: Sam Boduch, Marika Wilde, Cilia Bannenberg, Pat Lenzi, and John Wallace.

2. Establishing group norms, revisited

The group reviewed the norms (from May 28) and decided that they are adequate for the present. Changes can be made as necessary.

3. Review the May minutes

Sam made a motion to accept the May 28 minutes as amended. John seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.

4. Discussion based on materials sent out

Sam suggested that we review what the natural resources group felt was important ten years ago so that we're not 'reinventing the wheel.'

Natural Resources and Open Space Strategic Objectives

NR-1. The Town of Barrington should endeavor to protect and enhance key natural resources in the community that define the town's rural character such as scenic vistas, river corridors, lakes and ponds, wetlands, groundwater supplies, woodlands, fields and farmland.

NR-2. Make open space planning and protection a priority for town boards and departments.

NR-3. Establish a multi-faceted approach for open space protection that includes town funded acquisition of key areas and critical environmental lands, as well as the establishment of a private non-profit land trust that can support municipal land protection efforts.

NR-4. Promote the preservation of large tracts of unfragmented open space that provide important wildlife habitat and offer opportunities for traditional recreation activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking.

NR-5. Groundwater quality and availability in Barrington is an important issue today and will become even more important in the future. Due to the fact that groundwater is the primary water supply in the community, better information about the quality and use of groundwater resources in Barrington will be required for planning purposes and evaluation of future development proposals. This data should be collected from federal, state and local agencies and organizations and used for planning purposes and the evaluation of future development proposals.

NR-6. In order to protect the wide variety of environmental and natural resources important to the residents of Barrington, the standards and procedures contained in the town's existing regulations should be examined and, where appropriate, improved.

NR-7. The town should evaluate alternatives for determining the existing condition of key environmental attributes within Barrington (especially lakes, ponds and rivers) and then periodically monitor these sites on a regular basis to determine any changes in quality or possible sources of degradation.

NR-8. Continue work on creating trail systems of bikeways, walking paths and snowmobile trails throughout Barrington, as well as identify opportunities for connecting the various trail systems. (See Figure 1-3 Conceptual Trails and Natural Resource Corridors)

John Wallace mentioned that a lot of progress has been made in many of the areas, and Cilia stated that she feels the rights based ordinance would tie in with many of the objectives.

5. Establishing our charter, continued

The group reviewed what had previously been proposed. It was decided that if community composting is to be developed we need to look at what other towns in the area are doing. Cilia suggested that NEGEF (New England Grassroots Environmental Foundation) would be a good resource to contact as its done research in many areas and it awards grants. Sam provided information on a Vermont group that

does community composting, and John mentioned Waste Management as a resource. Sam said that the two key questions are suitability – would it work in our town, and sustainability – could we keep a community compost going. Sam will be in touch with Amy Antonnuci to let her know what was discussed regarding composting, and to get her feedback on where she sees the group going from here to establish community composting.

John brought up that Ken Grossman (a member of the Conservation Commission) is interested in working with the Planning Board to simplify and clarify the zoning ordinances as they relate to aquifers and wetlands. It was suggested that perhaps the Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage Committee would like to work with Ken and the BCC in this area.

6. Beginning to chart a path forward

John will contact the Seacoast Land Trust to find out how they might support and inform the group. There was discussion about how to maximize communication within the community and between envision groups. Sam will be contacting the coordinator of the Communication group to be kept updated on what they are doing.

7. Feedback: +'s and Δ

There were many compliments to Sam for his management of the meetings, and his organization and research. Marika brought up that it's nice to have young people involved in town issues (and she wasn't referring to John). Both Marika and John shared that they would like to have communication with other action groups, and John suggested chairs of groups meeting on a regular basis.

8. Next meeting(s) Wednesday August 27th (The July 23rd meeting was cancelled.)

9. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Lenzi