

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Town of Deerfield, Massachusetts
May 19, 2008
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Clark, Judy Kundl, Bob Underhill, (Lynn Rose late)

ABSENT: Dan LaRoche

ATTENDEES: none

The Open Space Committee meeting of the Town of Deerfield was called to order, pursuant to posted notice, in the Town Office Building, 8b Conway Street, South Deerfield, Massachusetts, on March 24, 2008 at 7:10 pm.

The committee meeting of April 21st was cancelled due to lack of attendance.

The meeting minutes from both January 24th and March 24th were reviewed and accepted into the record.

The \$1000.00 committee budget warrant article passed at the Annual Town Meeting.

B Underhill initiated discussion about prioritizing land parcels and the difficulties therein. While the CPC has held an initial meeting, he was not able to attend. He did review the Deerfield Land Trust funding sources, and noted that most state and related agency funding for parcels is a 10:1 or 20:1 match to town funds. This is especially true for lands along the river or Pocumtuck ridge, that are viewed as high priority.

J Kundl suggested using the town's 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan as a strategic guide for parcel priority, along with the Greenprinting maps. B Underhill identified potential sources for matching funds, including the DCR, State Fish and Wildlife, and Trust for Public Land. Possible grant sources include both the Self Help and Drinking Water grants.

Returning to the Open Space Plan, J Kundl cited line B5 of the Action Plan, which suggests preserving lands that abut parcels currently in conservation. B Underhill suggested to additionally investigate having Conservation Restrictions put on parcels, as this is a less costly preservation action as compared to outright purchase. He cited the restrictions put on UMASS land on River Road through the work of the Land Trust. He suggests looking at doing the same on town owned lands.

Upon review of high priority preservation areas in the town, it was agreed that the Deerfield River should be of initial focus, due to the lack of constituents advocating for this area as opposed to the ridge and Connecticut River. Discussion focused on ensuring preservation and recreation access for the public. After reviewing the maps provided by Clem Clay and TPL, areas were identified along Mill Village Road and Lower Road. Parcels will be much more easily identified once C Clay has made contact with this committee regarding GIS mapping. B Underhill will be working to make this happen.

Before the next meeting, members will visit the Deerfield River to identify potential parcels to investigate for preservation.

The next meeting will take place on June 23, 2008 at 7:00pm in the Town Offices.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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ATTEST: Ben Clark, Committee Clerk