

Minutes for Open Space Committee Meeting, May 20, 2008
7:30-9:50 p. m., Teacher's Room, Essex Elementary School

Present: Julie Scofield, Peter Kellerman, Lysa Leland, Martha Hoar, Rebecca Dawson, Leslie Burns, Maria Burnham, Helen Bethell

Next meeting is on Tuesday, June 3, at 7:30 p. m. in the Teachers' Room of the Essex Elementary School

- I. Open Space plan
 - A. Receipts from April B. on plan expenses are in a box in Julie's attic.
 - B. Rebecca gave Julie another copy of the plan.
 - C. **The Committee will need to order more copies of the plan.**

- II. Rebecca reported that John Donovan is happy to be an associate member of the Committee.
She will add his email address to the list

- III. Helen spoke on Essex issues related to the Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust (MECT)
 - A. Early history of the trust
 1. Started by Frances Burnett, Al Creighton and Gid Loring
 2. Incorporated with the help of Goerge Shaw
 3. Recently purchased ~ 100 acres of formerly Hendersonland from Park
 - B. Rocky Hill Road
 1. Road is private land, abutters own to the middle of it.
 2. Southern end protected by conservation restrictions on the road
 3. Northern end needs more work to preserve it.
 4. The road is only 11' wide.
 - C. Town treasurer, Virginia Boutchie, is looking into taking tax-delinquent wood lots for the town.
 1. MA Dept. of Revenue has already approved the taking.
 2. Legal procedures need to be initiated.
 3. **The Open Space Committee shold contact Virginia to offer help with paper work.**
 - D. **Helen will talk to the Essex assessors about devaluating land-locked parcels to make them more affordable for conservation.**

- IV. Centennial Grove signs
 - A. **Julie will call about finding people to make the signs.**
 1. Greenbelt
 2. Ipswich T-shirt people
 3. MECT signs – Helen will check with Al Creighton
 - B. **Expenditures must be voted at the June meeting.**
 - C. **Leslie promised that she would take over supervision of the Centennial Grove Trail from Martha.**

- V. Town web site
 - A. **Julie will contact Brendhan about getting training to use the site.**

Please turn the page.

B. Minutes

1. On web site?
2. **After approval, minutes should be sent to Town Clerk and Selectmen.**

VI. Appointment of new members

A. Expiration of Martha and Rebecca's terms is June 30.

1. Martha is leaving permanently after this meeting.
2. Rebecca is leaving after this meeting.

B. New members

1. April B. will be returning in the fall.
2. Julie is staying on the Committee.
3. At least 3 new members will be needed.
4. Maria and Leslie volunteered.

D. Rebecca will ask

1. **The Selectmen to appoint new members so that they can vote at the June meeting.**
2. **Karin Gertsch or Jane Adams to join.**

VII. Other business

A. Maps for meetings – Leslie will try to get some.

B. Gretel Clark would like the committee to make a plan for open space – bike paths on Southern Ave.?

C. Offer Open Space committee to partner with other committees

1. Concomm?

2. Planning Board

a. Zoning issues

- 1) **Will come up at the next meeting** –two zoning articles: overlay districts for northern and southern Essex using the same language as in the 2008 Annual Town Meeting, and another overlay district for the downtown area to be mixed use?

2) Offer help?

b. Check out MAPC funding for planning?

VI. Other business

A. If Rebecca decides not to stay on the committee after July 1, a new member should be appointed.

B. Leslie will write to the Selectmen about the Open Space Plan to make them more aware of its existence as a planning tool for the town.

C. Leslie will check with Greenbelt about purchasing a map of open space in Essex from them for the committee. Julie will check with April Bowling about the accuracy of their map for Essex.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 3, IN THE TEACHERS' ROOM AT THE ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.