

Minutes for Open Space Committee Meeting, September 9, 2008
7:30-8:50 p. m., Essex Elementary School, Teachers' Room

Committee present: Julie Scofield, Leslie Burns, Maria Burnham

Guests present: Jane Adams, and at 8:15, Tom Ellsworth and Bill Holton

MOTION: Leslie moved, Maria seconded and it was voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the meeting of August 21, as read.

- I. Maria Burnham reported that Karin Gertsch has submitted her resignation to the Board of Selectman, as she will be entering graduate school this fall and working full time.
- II. Open Space Plan – Julie will order the 5 new copies.
- III. Centennial Grove signs
 - A. Julie reported that some changes to sign #3 are in the works.
 - B. Leslie will give Julie the number of directional signs needed.
 - C. Julie will order the signs.
- IV. “Business” Survey
 - A. Leslie reported that the business survey was just an oral questioning of customers by business owners to get a sense of why they came to Essex and what interested them once they arrived here.
 - B. She will try to get some of the data, if there is any.
- V. Zoning Overlay District
 - A. Bill Holton of the Planning Board and Tom Ellsworth presented a sample overlay map that included many areas recommended for preservation in the Open Space Plan.
 1. The overlay would permit only residential or agricultural uses in the district.
 2. They would like suggestions for changes from the Open Space Committee before going to the Planning Board on Sept. 17.
 3. Maria reported from Rebecca Dawson that the Committee at the time used the MAPC survey of the town to choose the parcels for preservation in the Open Space Plan.
 - B. Questions about the size of the “Essex Woods” were brought up.
 1. Leslie and Julie will meet with Helen Bethell to go over habitats in the woods.
 2. They will come up with some ideas for bounds before the next Planning Board meeting, with the understanding that the overlay district will only prevent new commercial activity, and does not afford protection from other sorts of development.

It was moved by Leslie, seconded by Maria and voted unanimously to recommend the use of the Open Space Plan as a guide in setting the bounds of the overlay district.

- VI. Next meeting is on Thursday, October 2, at 7:30 p. m. in the Essex Elementary School, Room 11.