

**Minutes for Open Space Committee Meeting, Thurs., December 4, 2008
7:30 - 9:10 p. m., Teachers Room, Essex Elementary School**

Present: Julie Scofield, Leslie Burns, Maria Burnham, Stephan Gersh

MOTION: Leslie moved, Maria seconded and it was voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the meeting of October 30.

- I. Centennial Grove signs – Julie reported that the signs have been ordered.
- II. Community Garden – It was decided that the discussion will continue at the next meeting we have with Lynne Marchetti.
- III. Both Julie & Leslie mentioned that the committee should be working more on the important issues in the Open Space Plan.
 - A. Julie reported that the library copy of the Open Space Plan is currently at Staples being reproduced.
 - B. Each of us will go over our copies to recommend priorities for the committee's attention, especially those items attainable this year; committee members are asked to submit ideas in writing before the next meeting.
 - C. The committee should develop some promotional literature on the public open spaces in Essex.
- IV. Stephan Gersh came to discuss the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.
 - A. Stephan is a member of the ConComm and the CPA Committee and is familiar with the Open Space Plan.
 - B. The State sets aside matching funds to those raised by the towns for Community Preservation.
 - C. Requirements for spending the funds
 1. 5% is set aside for the CPA committee expenses.
 2. 10% of the remaining money goes for each of the following 3 purposes.
 - a. Open Space
 - b. Historic Preservation
 - c. Housing
 3. The remaining balance (65%)
 - a. May be assigned to any or all of these purposes
 - b. May be set aside to accumulate
 - c. May be used for recreational purposes
 4. Any expenditure from the fund has certain requirements.
 - a. Distributions must be assigned according to the above rules.
 - b. A public hearing must be held on the plans for distribution.
 - c. A majority of a town meeting must vote for the plan.
 - D. For more information, see www.communitypreservation.org
- V. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p. m.
- VI. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7:30 p. m. in the Essex Elementary School, Teachers' Room.