

**Minutes for Open Space Committee Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009**  
**7:30 - 9:00 p. m., Teachers' Room, Essex Elementary School**

Present: Julie Scofield, Leslie Burns, Maria Burnham

**MOTION: Leslie moved, Maria seconded and it was voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2009.**

- I. The meeting between the Selectmen and the Planning Board on Tuesday, Feb. 17 about an overlay district article on the next town meeting was discussed.
  - A. An overlay district article needs to be presented by the Planning Board, not a citizens' group.
  - B. Selectman Mark Lynch reiterated strongly that it was his belief that such an article needs massive publicity to the townspeople.
  - C. Julie read a letter from Kim Drake, chair of the Planning Board, that the overlay zoning district is not dead.
  - D. All parties agree that the help of a planner is important.
  - E. The Selectmen agreed that a special town meeting in the fall is an appropriate alternative.
  
- II. The Open Space Plan Action Priorities were discussed next.
  - A. It was decided that a brochure listing Essex's public open space parcels was very much needed.
    1. Leslie offered to take the pictures for a brochure.
    2. Leslie will bring the open space brochures of other towns to the next meeting.
    3. Julie commented that Lysa Leland has offered to help with a brochure.
    4. The topic of the distribution of these brochures was brought up.
    5. Maria will bring in the name of an on-line brochure company that prints 5,000 very reasonably.
    6. The "carry in, carry out" policy should be explained in the brochure to users of open space parcels.
  
  - B. Maria will bring in the preliminary notes from an Essex Historical Society walking tour.
  
- III. Julie will talk to Paul Goodwin of the DPW about helping with the Centennial Grove trail signs.
  
- IV. New business – Leslie mentioned the idea of having a town skating rink to bring people together.
  
- V. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30p. m. in the Teachers' room of the Elementary School.**