

TOWN OF JAFFREY
Jaffrey, New Hampshire

Ad hoc Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2010

Present: Chairman Kresge, Members Graf, Garretson, Doane

Absent:

WORKING SESSION

Chairman Kresge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and presented a status update on the memo that was sent to the Select Board. This memo suggested a modification to the committee's charge to include preparation of an initial Open Space Plan for Jaffrey, in addition to its discussions regarding the proper role and potential composition of a permanent Open Space Committee. Positive feedback was received from Don MacIsaac on this idea, input from other Select Board members still pending.

Member Doane suggested that further clarification of definition of "open space" was needed in order to firm up the mission statement for the committee. Discussion ensued on whether or not there was a minimum parcel size to qualify as open space. Conclusion was that value of a particular parcel is not necessarily related to size, and that even small parcels might qualify as open space, depending upon circumstances. Question was raised on whether athletic and other organized recreation facilities should be included. Conclusion was that these facilities should be identified in the initial inventory of permanently protected conservation land and parcels under current use, but that management or expansion of these facilities was not an appropriate focus for the committee's discussions since this is already handled in town government by the Recreation Dept.

Ideas floated for the committee's mission statement included 1) identifying the components that make up the quality of life/rural character in Jaffrey and formulating strategies to ensure that these qualities and recreational opportunities remain available to future generations, and 2) identifying ecosystem services provided by open space such as aquifer protection/water resources, wildlife habitat, stormwater control, wetland functions, etc. and incorporating the protection of these utility values into any plan. These preliminary ideas are to be refined and discussed further at next meeting.

The committee discussed the types of interest groups that should be invited to share their interests during the information gathering phase of the committee's work. Each interest group will form the focus for one committee meeting, with the intent of collecting information on the types or locations of land important to that group, and how the group's interests might be incorporated into a plan.

Tentative focus groups and meeting dates:

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| • Snowmobiles | March 3 |
| • Working lands – agriculture, forestry, sugaring | March 17 |
| • Hunting | March 31 |
| • Resource conservation – water, habitat, wetland, etc. | April 7 |
| • Misc. rural characters – artists, photographers, scenic vistas | April 21 |
| • Trail users – walkers, bikers, birders, hikers, skiers | May 5 |
| • Water access – fishing, water sports, swimmers | May 19 |

The need for standardizing and organizing information collected from each group was discussed. A checklist of questions for each group was developed including the following items:

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1. What are the land values most important to your group?
2. What is the current availability/adequacy of resources for your activity?
3. Are there any particular areas of vulnerability for resources required for your activity?
4. Where are the lands in Jaffrey most suitable for your activity?
5. Does your activity lend itself to a multiple use scenario?
6. Are there other uses that are incompatible with your activity?
7. What is the general sense of future participation in your activity? Expanding? Contracting?

Next meeting will be on March 3.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted:

Mark W. Kresge
Chairman, Ad hoc Open Space Committee