

TOWN OF JAFFREY
Jaffrey, New Hampshire

Ad hoc Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2010

Present: Kresge, Moore, Graf, Sawyer, Doane, Thompson, Koch

Absent: Garretson, Therriault, George

WORKING SESSION

Chairman Kresge called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A compilation of the evaluation criteria generated at the previous meeting was distributed for review. The criteria were not categorized as they had been during the discussion phase, but simply presented in a master list. The criteria were not specifically arranged in order of importance, but since some issues were raised repeatedly in various contexts during the previous discussions, the committee agreed that these issues should appear toward the top of the list. The top 5 issues were listed as providing corridors/linkage between areas of high natural resource or recreational value, encouraging productive working lands, preserving scenic vistas, protecting water resources, and encouraging publicly accessible trails.

The committee reviewed maps generated during the focus group public input sessions conducted in Spring 2010. After discussing how those maps could best be interpreted and used, the committee felt that it would be useful to prepare transparencies indicating the areas of interest for each interest group, which could be used as overlays. Rather than attempting to synthesize this information into defined priority areas at this point, the committee felt that the best course of action was to simply provide the overlays as a tool for use by future committees/review boards when evaluating site-specific open space opportunities.

The committee considered the issue of what the best governmental form would be to evaluate open space issues/opportunities in the future. The general options considered were to either charge an existing town committee (Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Select Board) with this responsibility, or to form a new standing Open Space Committee to deal exclusively with these issues. A list of pros and cons for the prospect of forming a new Open Space Committee was prepared. A number of advantages and disadvantages for this approach were identified. After consideration, the committee voted 7-0 in favor of recommending to the Select Board that a permanent Open Space Committee be formed. Absent committee members will also be polled for their opinion on this issue.

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A list of roles and responsibilities for a permanent Open Space Committee was prepared. Items included:

- Identifying grant possibilities.
- Providing research-based education on open space issues to community.
- Ongoing meetings with citizen groups and updating open space maps.
- Feedback to other Town boards on applications or potential policies, as requested.
- Recommendations to Select Board on use of the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund.
- Establishing liaisons with similar committees in adjoining towns/region.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Next meeting will be on August 18.

Submitted:

Mark W. Kresge
Chairman, Ad hoc Open Space Committee