

**TOWN OF JAFFREY
Jaffrey, New Hampshire**

**Ad hoc Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2010**

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

Absent: George

WORKING SESSION

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

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, including potential roles for a committee dealing with open space issues, and the discussion on whether these roles could be best served by a dedicated OSC or by an existing town board/commission. Members Garretson and Therriault, who were absent from the last meeting, expressed support for the notion of a dedicated OSC, but thought it was odd that the list of pros and cons had equal numbers on each side, given that the committee was unanimously in favor of a dedicated committee. Member Graf pointed out that the overall assessment of the committee was that the items on the pro side of the ledger had more weight or importance, despite the equal number, thus tilting the decision in the direction of a dedicated OSC. Chairman Kresge read a letter from Michael George also expressing support for a dedicated OSC. Final polled vote of committee members was 10-0 in favor of forming a dedicated Open Space Committee to deal with open space issues.

The committee discussed the potential roles for an OSC identified in the last meeting. Emphasis was placed on the advisory and educational resource role of the OSC – the agricultural Cooperative Extension Service was identified as a good model for providing these kinds of services. It was noted that advising landowners on tools and techniques for keeping land open in an economically viable manner would be a valuable service. Also, identifying uses of land that benefit many different users will lead to more support for open space protection.

The appropriate size for an OSC was discussed. A 7-member committee was considered to be large enough to represent different viewpoints, but not so large that it would be difficult to find enough willing members. Committee members should include representatives from land use interest groups (such as those represented in the focus group sessions this spring), other town boards/departments such as Planning Board, ConCom or others, and interested citizens in general. No more than one representative from any single town board should serve on the OSC, in order to maintain diversity of viewpoints and reduce impact on volunteer schedules.

Potential tools available for open space protection were discussed including:

- Current use
- Discretionary easements
- Trail easements

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- View easements
- OSDP density bonus
- Tax incentives
- Brownfield redevelopment
- Overall town support of agriculture, water resource protection

The ad hoc committee will have a final meeting in September to review language for the ad hoc committee report/open space plan. The final report will be presented to the ConCom and Planning Board for comments, and to the Select Board in October.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Next meeting will be on Monday, September 20 at 6 pm.

Submitted:

Mark W. Kresge
Chairman, Ad hoc Open Space Committee