

Town of North Hampton Conservation Commission

Subcommittee on Easements

Minutes of Meeting

March 31, 2015

Mary Herbert Room

Administrative Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. Present were Chris Ganotis (Conservation Commission Chair), Andrew Vorkink (Subcommittee Chair), Kathy Grant and Lisa Wilson, constituting a quorum. The meeting was duly posted.

New Business

The Subcommittee Chair welcomed the members to the inaugural meeting of the subcommittee. The chair of the Conservation Committee was asked to brief the members on the recent adoption by the Select Board of new procedures for maintaining and posting minutes, which were duly noted.

Alternate

The chair asked Mr. Ganotis if he would be willing to serve as an alternate on the Subcommittee in view of his extensive experience with town conservation easements. After expressing his willingness, **Lisa Wilson moved that Mr. Ganotis be so appointed as an alternate to the Subcommittee, which was duly seconded by Kathy Grant. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Work Program

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussing the proposed work plan (attached) for the Subcommittee, which the chair submitted at the meeting. Discussion centered around the gathering of additional information needed to complete actions recommended in the 2007 Report prepared by Christopher Kane for the town on conservation stewardship and monitoring. Discussion also included identifying those deeds where the grantor intended to create a conservation easement but where further action to perfect the easement would need amendments to the deed. For this purpose special outside counsel had submitted a template to cover such situations. It was also noted that the 2007 list of deeds where action was required had in part been superseded by action of the North Hampton Forever committee in finalizing easements after the date of the 2007 report.

Discussion also focused on obtaining a checklist for easement monitoring based on those in use in Hampton and by the Southeast Land trust which could be used by the Conservation Committee as part of easement monitoring where the town was the designated grantee. It was noted that in cases where the town is not the grantee under a conservation easement, the designated grantee has responsibility for monitoring the easement, not the town.

Discussion also covered ways by which maps of conservation easement parcels could be better integrated into an expanded database of conservation easements within the town so that the public and

town officials could more easily identify easements and the particulars of the easements such as restrictions and permitted activities. This was discussed as an important objective for the subcommittee.

It was also discussed that after obtaining more information on monitoring processes and for expansion of the database the Subcommittee would meet again to continue work on the work plan.

There being no further business to discuss, **a motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Andrew Vorkink, Subcommittee Chair

These minutes were approved in final by vote of the Subcommittee at its meeting on June 9, 2015