

February 14, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Upton Open Space Committee

Nipmuc High, 7.10 PM

Members present:

Alan Miano
Mike Penko
Marcella Stasa
Bill Taylor

Attendees:

MS gave update on coming events

Rick Holmes unanimously approved as open space representative on the Community Preservation Committee.

We will be ready to discuss the Scenic Roads Bylaw (SRB) with the Planning Board (PB) tonight.

No response yet from Cutler & Pierie regarding sale of land abutting Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area.

Can it be a bargain sale for a grant?

Town of Upton could hold the CR and Metacomet could own the land.

The Cutlers & Pieries may be approaching the Grafton Land Trust.

Perhaps there could be a trade for land in Grafton.

Con Com is supportive of putting North Street parcels under the care of Con Com. Naming the parcels on historic basis. Meet with the Historic Commission to discuss SRB and the naming of the North Street parcels.

BT- If we have the trail at Sweetwilliam Farm finished we might have more to stand on.

We should put the request to manage the parcels off until that is done.

MP – We may want other parcels in the coming year.

BT- The Town Hall restriction puts the idea of restrictions out there as negative.

Meeting moved to PDC to discuss SRB with the PB.

BT- presented the work he has done on the SRB so far.

Is it a zoning or a general bylaw? If it goes in the zoning bylaws we need a public hearing with a 2/3 vote; If it's a general bylaw it will be by majority vote.

It fits the directive of the Master Plan.

Will repair permits be needed? A: No.

Town right of way is 25 feet from the center of the road if not on file. If plans are on file-check with the DPW.

Utilities would have to file-they don't like it though.

Is there a sample form?

What is the proposed filing fee?

Can we have another board handle it?

We will meet with the PB again on the 28th & have a posted UOSC meeting at the same time.

UOSC can hold an informational meeting.

We need to get it on the warrant.

Uncertainty about enforcement and fines. Fine should be defined.

Will property owners need to put out an unreasonable amount of money to do minor cutting and Wall disturbance?

State law fine is a maximum of \$300. BT will find out what other towns fine.

Two notices are required for a hearing.

No hearing needed if a tree is dead, dying or diseased as determined by the Tree Warden.

Is the tree Warden active? He should be included in the discussion.

We can do GPS mapping and insert a GIS layer for a visual presentation.

We'll go out on Saturday, February 18th to start identifying roads for designation..

Barbara Burke will be contacted about our being on the Historic Commission agenda on February 21st

Meeting adjourned 8.48 PM