

Wayland Real Asset Planning Committee  
February 26, 2016 – 9:00 AM

Present. Colleen Sheehan (presiding); Anette Lewis and Gretchen Schuler.

Also Present. George Bennett

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM.

Minutes. The minutes of 2-12-16 were approved as written. Vote: 3-0-0

Public Comment. George Bennett read a statement about the municipal parcel at the Paine Estate/Greenways, which he characterized as a beautiful parcel of open and wooded land supporting many natural habitats. He quoted from Master Plan and hoped that we would recognize this parcel as a heritage landscape important to the ecology and environment of the community. He will forward comments to attach to minutes.

Memo to Board of Selectmen on Annual Town Meeting Articles. The memo was discussed at the February 24, 2016 meeting and Ms. Sheehan agreed to write the first draft for WRAP consideration. Most of the meeting was spent editing the initial draft. Mr. Abdella was unable to attend due to absence from town but sent comments to Ms. Sheehan. Once finalized it was e-mailed to Sarkis Sarkisian, Town Planner who printed out and delivered to WRAP members and the Board of Selectmen whose own meeting followed at 11:00 AM. The memo addresses Article O (Funds for COA/CC Design and Construction Documents for COA/CC at Town Center Municipal Pad) and Article HH (Fund design of artificial turf field at 193/195 Main Street). A copy is attached.

Next Meetings.

Either March 3<sup>rd</sup> or March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Either March 10<sup>th</sup> or March 9<sup>th</sup> (8:00 PM)

Either March 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>

Either March 30<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>

Ms. Schuler will send Mr. Abdella an email asking him for this availability and/or preferences. The first date in each selection was the better date for Ms. Lewis, Ms. Schuler, and/or Ms. Sheehan.

The meetings of the first two weeks will focus on ranking of projects and properties. Meetings of the last two weeks of March will focus on preparing FAQ for ATM articles.

Ms. Lewis said that she would continue her investigation of restrictions on various properties.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM following a 3-0-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen G. Schuler

Distributed at Meeting.

- 1) Annual Town Meeting 2016 Articles Memo from WRAP to BOS 2/26/16
- 2) Anticipated Major Capital Projects Chart, edited (Lewis) 2/25/16

Public Comment of George Bennett 2/26/2016

I'd like to submit a public comment for consideration as the committee works on review of various town owned buildings and properties. One of the great benefits of residing in Wayland is the natural beauty of the town. Of the parcels under consideration by WRAP, the Greenways parcel presents an important example of open space and habitat for native plants and animals that is of great value to the town. This is my personal belief, but it is one that is shared by many in Wayland.

To quote briefly from the 2004 Town of Wayland master plan:

"During the Master Plan process, Wayland residents identified open space and recreation lands as a critical aspect of the Town's landscape and a key contributor to quality of life in the Town. On a practical level, open lands help protect the Town's water supply, manage flood waters, provide wildlife habitat, and offer opportunities for various recreational activities. Open lands also help identify the Town as a semi-rural community and provide a window into Wayland's agrarian past. As vacant land continues to be developed, the remaining open lands become even more important for preserving Wayland's unique character."

The following land conservation priorities are from the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan as well as public input during the Master Plan process.

- Wayland is a mostly wooded town, so open fields are both visually interesting and ecologically important. They are also a key part of the Town's "heritage landscapes."
- Land along the Sudbury River comprises a valuable ecological corridor, including outstanding migratory bird habitat. Undeveloped land along the river also helps maintain water quality by treating polluted runoff.
- Large parcels (or small parcels adjacent to larger open spaces) generally offer more benefits for wildlife and recreation than small isolated parcels.

The Greenways parcel is an unusually beautiful property at the confluence of the Sudbury River and two significant streams, providing a variety of terrain that is home to many valuable plant and animal species. As a long time Wayland resident and abutter, who has spent much of my life on and around the Paine Estate, I have been fortunate to observe these plants and animals and their behaviors, including annual American Woodcock mating displays; Wood Duck nesting; Great Horned Owls courting; Pileated Woodpeckers nesting; Fishers and Red Fox hunting; Lady Slipper and Rattlesnake plant flowering; Milkweed and New York Ironweed flowering and attracting butterflies and other pollinators; beaver dam and lodge construction; otter trails in the snow; etc.

Property owned by Sudbury Valley Trustees wraps around the Greenways parcel, and there are ongoing efforts, and excellent work that already has been done, to combat invasive plants and restore native habitat, through a consortium of entities including : SVT; Town of Wayland/Conservation Commission; New England Wildflower Society; Landowner Incentive Program through Mass Fish and Wildlife; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and Suasco CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) utilizing funding from the NYANZA settlement. This work has resulted in an amazing transformation of the fields and open space, which is already attracting and will continue to provide habitat for many native plants and animals.

Open space is something that benefits all Wayland residents, even those who don't actively use it. The town has a strong record of protecting open space, and I hope that as WRAP develops a proposal to submit to Town Meeting, decisions will be made with awareness of and sensitivity to the importance of the open spaces and natural beauty of undeveloped parts of Wayland.

Respectfully, George Bennett