

MINUTES

GREEN SPACE COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021 ONLINE BY ZOOM 6:30 p.m.

Members present:

Kathleen Thornton, Heather Jackson, Wendy Reinemann, Donald Kleiner, Joshua White, Select Board Representative and Voting Members and Clairlynn Rountree

Meeting held via Zoom

Minutes of the last meeting approved with corrections.

No members of the public were present to comment.

Discussion on the need for a survey of the property to make sure we are thinking correctly about what all we are including.

Discussion on the need for a comprehensive plan for the properties that the town should consider setting aside.

Members please send contact of individuals who can provide helpful information to our process. Maine Farmland Trust will present at our next meeting.

At 7PM Annette Nagel of the Georges River Land Trust (GRLT) came on to discuss a conservation easement for the property and review the requirements for that arrangement.

Annette gave a general presentation and answered a variety of questions from the committee.

Some points she made.

A conservation easement is a way to ensure long term preservation of a property. More lasting than a deed restriction which can be changed.

The Towns of Saint George and Owls Head currently have easements with the GRLT.

An easement can be amended with the consent of both parties but any changes must be true to the spirit of the original agreement.

GRLT requires public access for any parcel it manages.

A management plan for the parcel will be developed after the conservation easement is in place.

Easements are taken on by the GRLT with a stewardship fund which can be funded over time. The usual amount for this fund is between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

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There is language in the easement that spells out who will take responsibility for the easement if the GRLT ceases to exist.

GRLT does not make payments in lieu of taxes to the municipality.

Annette kindly offered to provide the committee references that they have worked with in Union and some additional language from other town agreements.

Kathleen will report to the Selectboard at their meeting on January 4th to inform them of our progress to date and what we see as the next steps. Jay will get her on the agenda for that meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for January 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Recording Secretary,

Don Kleiner