

MINUTES

GREEN SPACE COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 ONLINE BY ZOOM 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Kathleen Thornton, Heather Jackson, Wendy Reinemann, Don Kleiner, Clairlynn Rountree and Josh White present

1. 6:30pm – Kathleen calls meeting to order.
2. Reading and approval of minutes

Kathleen- all in favor of accepting the minutes as written. Heather 2nd. 6 yay, 0- no
As Don will be leaving the meeting early, Clairlynn agrees to do this meeting's minutes.

3. Kathleen briefly reviewed the list of questions to and responses from the town attorney, Roger Therriault, Esq.

Josh- due to computer issues he has not read the attorney's response to the questions.
Discussion followed.

A. Management plan discussion:

Kathleen- Can a deed restriction be written to reference specific items?

Don- is that town policy?

Wendy- Do any town properties in Union have one?

Kathleen - Shared a response that she received from a conservation lawyer (Rob Levin). He reportedly stated that the Green Space committee sounds very much like a conservation committee.

1. Discussion about proposing to the board that they create a conservation committee. Don believes that the town had one many years back.

B. Discussion about "straight easement" vs "conservation easement"

Kathleen- Shared her experience.

Don- Shared his experience.

(* Wendy- left the meeting at 6:50)

Don- "My interpretation was basically a problem of having conservation easement on it with third parties, that they will have some power in this."

Josh suggested the possibility of creating a town based Non-profit to oversee the deed restrictions, etc.

(* Don- left meeting at 7:00.)

Green Space Committee Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Kathleen- shared description of a land bank from Conservation Attorney (Rob Levin)
Josh- If GRLT can sue the town for enforcement of the easement, can the town set up a non-profit? Can town set up a non-profit which would have the same responsibility to enforce the deed restriction?

1. How would we decide membership/leadership?

C. Discussion about funds needed for a survey of the property.

Kathleen- how soon do we need to make our request?

Josh-The sooner the better. Budget committee meets in March.

Heather- made a motion to ask for not more than \$15,000 be requested from the budget committee for a survey of property.

Josh- second it.

Discussion followed-

Josh- if we ask for the money and don't use it the funds stay with the town, or if we don't use it all, the remainder stays with the town.

Heather- How do we make a request?

Josh- Chair of the GSC will make the request

Kathleen agrees to contact Jay to make the request.

Heather- Stress to Jay this a ceiling amount of money and hopefully it will be significantly less cost.

Vote: 4 in favor - none opposed.

4. Public Comment - None

5. Updates and news from committee members - None

6. Future agenda items:

Kathleen- Can anyone do some research on the "Land bank" idea?

Josh will write up his vision of the town non-profit proposal.

7. Next meeting scheduled for March 9th at 6:30pm.

8. 7:43 Kathleen- motion to adjourn. Heather 2nd. Vote: 4 in favor, none opposed.

Recording Secretary,

Clairlynn Rountree