

MINUTES

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

Members present: Kathleen Thornton, Heather Jackson, Wendy Reineman, Clairlynn Rountree, Josh White

Absent: Don Kleiner

Called to order at 6:32 PM

Minutes of the 03/10/22 meeting reviewed and discussed. Kathleen made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Clairlynn seconded. 5 in favor, 0 opposed

Public comment: None

Updates and news from committee members:

Kathleen shares that she contacted the Midcoast Conservancy and Maine Farmland Trust agencies to request a list of landowners that they have worked with in Union who might be willing to speak with us.

Kathleen shares that she also called the Waldoboro Town Manager, Julie Keizer, to inquire if she would be willing to speak with us regarding Waldoboro's relationship with the Midcoast Conservancy (i.e., with the blueberry fields). Ms. Keizer is willing to come to one of our meetings to share information/answer questions.

Compilation of questions to ask of individuals who have worked with GRLT and MFT on private and municipal land conservation projects:

We reviewed the questions that were put together at our last meeting, and added a few additional ones.

Where is the land that you have an easement on?

Can you generally describe the property?

What was your intent in putting an easement on the property?

Who is the easement holder?

Did you consider other organizations as potential easement holders for this property?

How did you decide which organization to work with?

Can you describe the working relationship with that organization?

Did you work with a single point of contact at the organization when developing the easement?

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Was the easement written with input from you and the organization?

Were you satisfied with the process of writing the easement?

Who visits the land now to make sure that the terms of the easement are being met? Is that consistent?

Has there been any enforcement needed of the terms of the easement?

If so, can you describe how that was handled?

What would you do differently if there was a second chance?

How long did the process take from beginning to end?

For those of you who have had a change in easement holder, what was the process? How did you find out? What steps had to be taken? Were there any challenges that you faced during the change/process?

Additional Questions specific to towns:

Did you consider other options such as a deed restriction?

What process did you use to get town approval of the easement?

How was it financed?

Does your easement allow for recreational use? And perhaps improvements to support that recreation? What is the wording in your easement related to recreational use?

Kathleen made a motion to accept this list of questions for use with those who have formed relationships with third party easement holders. Josh seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Kathleen then made a motion to send this list of questions to the contacts that we are provided with that have relationships with third party easement holders. Heather seconded.

Discussion ensued. Wendy proposes that a time cap be placed on when we'd like to receive responses back. After discussion, it's decided that Kathleen will reach out to the contacts with an introductory paragraph, the list of questions, and with a request that they consider attending our next meeting in person. Kathleen will request that they return their answers to the questions within at least one week prior to our next meeting date. Kathleen hopes that we will receive answers from at least two landowners from each organization that acts as a third-party easement holder (i.e., MFL, GRLT). Clairlynn suggests that someone from Owls Head be contacted, regarding the town-owned property there that has an easement on it. Kathleen agrees to reach out to the Owls Head town office.

Vote called for - all in favor, none opposed.

Revisited request to the budget committee for funding for survey:

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Kathleen shares that the proposed survey quote from the Landmark Corporation was for \$6-7,000. Discussion of what to revise/reduce our requested amount to for the Budget Committee (which is scheduled to meet on April 26th and 27th).

Josh made a motion to revise our Budget Committee survey funds' request to the \$7000 that the Landmark Corporation estimates that it would cost to do the survey on the town-owned Coggins Hill property. Heather seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Discussion of future agenda items:

Invite Julie Keiser, Waldoboro Town Manager, to our next meeting. Also invite others on the contact list, via the emails that Kathleen will send out with our list of questions.

Further discussion of the possibility of transforming the Green Space Committee into a Conservation Committee.

Discuss the idea of creating a town-based group that would act as the third-party easement holder for the Coggins Hill property.

Follow up on the budget request.

Next meeting scheduled for May 4, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. (At this time, expected to be an in-person meeting.)

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn. Josh seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Heather Jackson