

MINUTES

GREEN SPACE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM

6:30 p.m.

Members present:

Kathleen Thornton, Heather Jackson, Wendy Reinemann, Donald Kleiner, Joshua White, Select Board Representative and Voting Member, and Clairlynn Rountree (via Zoom)

Jay Feyler Town Manager and 2 interested members of the public.

Jay gave the members the committees charge as directed by the selectboard. As follows the Town of Union owns property on Coggins Hill Road. The Select Board has initiated a Green Space Committee on October 5, 2021 to advise them on potential uses, green space being one use, of this property.

First Charge: Advise the Select Board on options for placing a deed restriction or conservation easement on this property. The goal of the easement would be to restrict development, maintain the blueberry fields and allow for informal public access.

Discussion, nomination and election of officers Chair Kathleen Thornton; Vice Chair Wendy Reinemann and recording secretary Don Kleiner.

Discussion of considerations on various restrictions and management options. Also visited the statement in the towns Comprehensive Plan citing a need for recreation areas to be preserved on the highest hills. Resulting in a list of things that we will need to know to make informed recommendations.

Issues of potential conflicting uses and needs were raised by the committee members such as public access on working agricultural operations, long term timber management on the wooded portion, potential use of the property as match for other conservation funding, restriction on development that might prevent development of trails and other recreational infrastructure in the future.

Two members of the public spoke about the importance of preserving this asset and proceeding carefully.

Member tasks for next meeting are as follows.

Josh White will talk with Waldoboro about their blueberry land and how it is managed.

Heather will talk with the Georges River Land Trust and the Mid Coast Conservancy about possible easement/ management options.

Don Kleiner will check with Land for Maine's Future on easement templates and information on the choice between deed restrictions and other conservation options.

Jay Feyler will check with MMA on to see if there is standard easement other towns are using.

Kathleen Thornton will contact lawyers that might be helpful to this project for their thoughts.

Wendy Reinemann to talk with Maine Farmland Trust

Clairlynn Rountree to contact Georges River Land Trust

Next meeting December 1, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the Union Town Office.

Recording Secretary,

Don Kleiner