

# MINUTES

**GREEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE AT TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:30 p.m.**

**Committee members present:** Kathleen Thornton (Chair), Heather Jackson, and Clairlynn Rountree

**Others present:** None.

**1. Meeting called to order:** 6:32 p.m. by Kathleen Thornton.

**2. Reading and approval of minutes for previous meetings:**

Heather will go back and check page 2, paragraph 6, about “expectation was that people would vote ... preserving and protecting with the select board.”

She said on page 3, it should read, “Jay said costs would be minimal, probably \$500.” On page 4, it should read, “Heather noted Kathleen had a great conversation.”

Motion to accept minutes of August 17, 2022 as amended above by: Heather Jackson  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Kathleen Thornton  
3-0

Motion to approve the July 27, 2022 workshop minutes by: Kathleen Thornton  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Clairlynn Rountree  
2-0-1 abstention (Jackson)

**3. Public Comment:** None.

**4. Updates and news from committee members:**

Heather reached back out to Georges River Land Trust and Midcoast Conservancy but has not heard back from either one.

She also said Wyman’s did go around on the field with a bush hog and got some of the trees down which was good to see. There are still a lot of big trees up there. Kathleen brought up a volunteer effort for those; Heather said they’d have to go to the select board.

Kathleen mentioned what Karen brought up at the CHPA meeting, about the Allen’s blueberry building is becoming an agricultural processing facility. Coastal Mountains

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Land Trust is involved and may have some interest in working with the town. She's not had time to call; Karen was going to make an introduction. Kathleen plans to reach out.

### 5. Discussion of survey:

Kathleen was very pleased with the survey. The town does own out to Coggins Hill Road. He put in all the ROWs that other people have on our property, the town property, and referenced the old deeds. Discussion followed referencing the survey.

In answer to Kathleen, Heather said Jay said the survey cost 7k.

Kathleen said she looks forward to going up to see the new markers.

### 6. Work on recommendation document of options for Select Board:

Kathleen said it's kind of cart before horse with the land trust easement. If we put it before the board, and eventually before the taxpayers, we're either going to keep it as is, vote in our restrictions, or going to a third-party easement. If people vote to do the latter, it would still have to be voted on again, on what the specific details are.

She wondered if we know the land trust that we would work with, would it be possible to just present an easement as an option? A finished easement? Otherwise we have to vote to do an easement, then people have to approve the easement. If we present it as an option, fully formed with minor changes maybe. What if the select board approved what we put in that option, we kind of negotiated with the land trust, not that it's going to be the final set in stone thing, but most of the major points would be there. The select board could approve and say we're ok with presenting that to the voters.

Heather's question was who decides how this decision gets made in regard to the minimal restrictions.

Kathleen said the alternative is to just present a typical description – we will have talked to the land trust enough to describe what it could be – along with a couple other options, then the voters vote on it in the spring, and then we spend a few months or however long it takes. If we did it that way, we'd have time to get people's opinions, maybe put out a survey. Heather said that would be the period of time for the fundraising if we went in that direction for the \$10,000 or \$12,000 or so.

Kathleen doesn't just want to give the voters the Owls Head easement and say this is what we're going to do. She'd like to nail it down a little bit. Heather suggested maybe it's about going to the select board and asking for their feedback: can they create the restrictions they want, and go to voters saying this is what we're doing? How much power do they have to make the decision and to what extent? Kathleen wondered how many of the general public would be interested in the nitty gritty details.

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Clairlynn didn't think the board would want to do all that nitty gritty. She would rather present the board with fully fleshed out options, noting if they gave the board a framework then came back with more information, the citizens would have to vote again which could be another year.

Heather suggested as a first step that Kathleen as Chair approach the select board. Discussion ensued. Kathleen reiterated the plan of giving them a presentation. Heather thought a written document would be helpful. Clairlynn anticipated a lot of questions from the board.

There was brief discussion of the status quo option. Kathleen suggested a PowerPoint presentation and will work on it.

Heather suggested deleting "donate property to land trust." Kathleen agreed with Heather keeping it simple is good, and the town makes money off the property. Deleted. Kathleen said the town forest isn't going to work either. They really have two options.

Heather brought up town-owned properties and read aloud one description on potential uses: "if the town decided the property was worth the legal fees, they may try to convince the judge to lift the covenant on the deed allowing the property to become part of the cemetery or try to sell the property. This would depend on the cost of the attorney's fees vs. the value of having cemetery space..."

Kathleen said the trouble we have is any restriction we put on the property we can take off. There's no third party to hold us accountable as in that. She noted Heather's quote referred to a property that already had restrictions, whereas here the town owns the property. Ayer Park was mentioned; it was consult the lawyer and ask what we can legally do. Protecting the property vs. future select board options was discussed. Heather brought up Hogback Mountain in Liberty, a similarly beautiful area; how protect it?

Supporting documents were discussed and looked at on the google drive.

Kathleen will start the PowerPoint and thinks they should meet more often. She will ask Jay if say the options are deed restriction or conservation, do we need to approve money for those when they approve the option? Heather imagined they would approve with caveat as long as funds become available or something like that; they would figure it out. Kathleen will also at Heather's suggestion ask Jay about if the town has to vote to accept funds.

Kathleen noted they have really pared down the recommendation document for the select board. They options have to be really different and clear. She will go to a select board meeting.

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### **7. Discussion of future agenda items:**

Heather mentioned Josh having to reapply as he is no longer the select board member. Wendy has not been attending. Kathleen will talk to Jay. Heather brought up ask the select board what future projects it wants this committee to work on. Kathleen said they need new members moving forward.

### **8. Schedule the next meeting:**

December 13, 2022.

### **9. Adjourn:**

Motion by: Kathleen Thornton

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Clairlynn Rountree

3-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary