



Open Space Commission

Briscoe Lang
Commission Chairman

Michael Belanger, MD

Melissa D. Travis

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CUMBERLAND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Monday June 9, 2014 at 6:00 P.M

Hayden Center, Room 4 - Cumberland Public Library
1464 Diamond Hill Road, Cumberland RI 02864

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Mr. Lang

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Briscoe Lang, Dr. Michael Belanger and Melissa Travis

Also present- Joe Pailthorpe and Frank Matta, of the Cumberland Land Trust and Blackstone River Watershed Council

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

N/A –

OLD BUSINESS:

None

1. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS:

Members introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their background and reason for involvement with the Open Space Commission.

B. ELECT OFFICERS:

Discussion on election of officers to serve the commission and elect Mr. Lang as Chairman.

MOTION BY COMMISSION MEMBER TRAVIS, SECONDED BY DR. BELANGER THAT BRISOE LANG BE THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN; VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY 3/0.

MOTION FOR COMMISSION MEMBER TRAVIS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OF RECORDING SECRETARY, SECONDED BY DR. BELANGER; VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY 3/0.

C. REVIEW ENABLING ORDINANCE CH. 30 ARTICLE IV SEC 30-121 THROUGH 30-140

Chairman Lang presented group with ordinance Planning and Development – Policies and Procedures for Future Open Space and Recreation Land Acquisition. Commission reviewed current ordinance and working draft of current open space which included maps, concerns, implementation procedures, funding and administration. Commission determined that it would be in the best interest of the town to develop a ranking system so members will work to establish this system. Discussion ensued.

D. REVIEW FINANCIAL CONDITION:

By Ordinance the Cumberland Open Space Commission is deemed to have a dedicated account known formally as the Open Space Account; this account was to be created within the town budget, funded with a portion of the real estate conveyance tax, and used solely for the acquisition of open space. Commission has no information regarding the expenditure of previous funds and has been told that the account has no depleted. Chairman Lang will request a meeting with the Finance Director to review funds spent and report to the commission. There is also reported to be money remaining from the most recently passed Open Space Bond issue, however details of that account had not yet been determined by the Commission. No other information on financial condition was available to the members. All agreed to table further discussion until more information became available.

E. REVIEW EXISTING OPEN SPACE LANDS:

Several projects were presented by Mr. Pailthorpe and Mr. Matta and identified as being important to the open space commission with the priority being the Conklin at Lippitt Pond, 16 lots totaling 5.84 acres, abutting Lippitt Pond. Extensive discussion ensued on current lands identified by Cumberland Land Trust and Blackstone River Watershed Council with supporting documents presented to commission members by Chairman Lang and Mr. Pailthorpe and Mr. Matta. The question was raised whether Land Trust ownership of additional pond frontage would allow Land Trust members, and the public at large, to access the pond.

MOTION BY COMMISSION MEMBER TRAVIS, SECONDED BY DR. BELANGER THAT THE OPEN SPACE COMMISSION WILL SUPPORT THE LAND TRUST'S PURSUIT OF THE CONKLIN PROPERTY AT LIPPITT POND ACTION TO PRESERVE AS OPEN SPACE. VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY 3/0.

F. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE:

Commission members discussed the Town of Cumberland Comprehensive Plan and what role the Open Space Commission should play to assist and guide the plan. All commission members agreed that they will support the plan and be present at upcoming Comprehensive Plan meetings to offer guidance and opinion on policies and procedures in matters regarding preservation, evaluation and sustainability of open space and recreation land.

Members determined that specific agenda items will be added as needed.

G. CORRESPONDENCE:

Cumberland Land Trust members Pailthorpe of the Acquisition Committee and Matta, Treasurer presented current land acquisition opportunities that will require funding partnerships. Three of the projects have Purchase Sales Agreements in place – Cobble Hill Development, Menard Property and Conklin at Lippitt Pond. Documentation, maps, board reviews and comprehensive update was presented to the Open Space Commission members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY DR. BELANGER, SECONDED BY MEMBER TRAVIS AND IT IS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:31 PM. VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY 3/0.

Melissa D. Travis, Recording Secretary