

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes 2/25/13

Meeting called to order at 7:09pm

Larry, Daniel, John Wheeler, Rita, David, Tom, Joel

Joel appointed sec. pro tem

Reviewed minutes of 1/28/13 meeting, slightly amended and accepted by majority, Tom and Rita abstained

Announcements – David told us Wendy Sweetser has become community outreach person for the Franklin Land Trust and is promoting a series of programs about estate planning

David has flyers to post and Larry will send it out by email

Survey – Have entered 320 and have 15 more to go

Larry said there are about 1200 on the street list

Larry gave the group a quick summary of the results thus far

The group acknowledged and discussed that there is a group that seemed quite negative

David hopes FRCOG will do more analysis and breakdown so as to make the information gathered more useful to town committees

David will be at FRCOG 2/27 to see what they feel they can do

The group then discussed how best to use the information gathered and how to get it out to folks who can use it, Larry suggested talking with FRCOG about that.

David thought Norm and Cynthia might have ideas based on what was done the last time a survey like this was done.

Larry thought about holding another public meeting with analysis of the information gathered

Rita pointed out that the Ag committee could be more involved and that there are many nonfarmers that are very pro farmer and would like to become involved forwarding the farm agenda

David spoke about the Ag Commission meeting in Sturbridge and we talked about the agenda

Joel suggested the Ag Commission should have more members

Tom stated that we need to have a sit down meeting with farmers and noted that Norm Davenport volunteered to host a meeting

Rita felt that would be productive

Joel volunteered to chat with Norm D

Rita suggested we finish with analysis then make reaching out to Ag and the farming community a priority project

We will keep working along on the overall project

David is meeting with Peggy Sloan Wednesday to discuss how other towns are approaching subdivision and development

Larry noted the survey respondents were in favor of commercial development site plan review the group then discussed the subject of site plan review

Land Conservation Opportunities - Rita reported for Cynthia that Audubon did not know the Rainville property was up for sale

Carol Bolduc represented it and it will sell as 1 piece

Mass Audubon is interested in the wooded slope and would work with others to make it all sell at once; Franklin Land Trust has some interest

Cynthia isn't sure the selectmen would be reluctant to change zoning out of industrial

The one acre that is across the road is not included in the sale

Annual Report – Larry will write it but needs input, some input was given

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm

Next meeting 3/25/13