

Open Space Preservation Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 20, 2018 7:00 PM
Mansfield Town Hall Conference Room B

Minutes

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05

2. Roll Call

OSPC members: Jim Morrow (Chair), Vicky Wetherell, Ken Feathers

Parks Advisory Committee members: Sue Harrington, Tom Harrington, Eric Apgar, Bill Thorne

Town Staff Present: Jennifer Kaufman

3. Review of Minutes

The Minutes of January 16, 2018 were approved with one spelling correction of a guest's name.

Notes of the January 20, 2018 field trip were accepted

4. Opportunity for Public comment

No members of the public were present

5. New Business

- *Appointment of a Secretary*

Feathers agreed to serve as secretary

- *Bicentennial Pond Sign Review*

A mockup of the proposed sign was discussed by the group and consensus was the sign concept, design and content were excellent.

- *Enabling a local option for land conservation and stewardship funding*

The group discussed a request for it to encourage the town council to express support for a bill being proposed to enable a town to choose to adopt a local surcharge on residential property purchases to fund open space. It was decided that a dependable and dedicated local funding source for town open space preservation and stewardship is needed but the proposed concept is only one of many options to consider and all should be explored before a recommendation is made.

6. Continuing business

- *Joshua's Trust Collaborative meeting next steps*

In furtherance of the January meeting with Joshua's trust the group discussed in more detail potential areas for cooperation, including: Joint outreach and education opportunities, coordination with other groups interested in Open Space in town, potential efficiencies through coordination and cooperation pertaining to stewardship activities, and specific land protection strategies and projects (discussed in executive session later in the meeting).

- *North frontage road comments*

The committee members attending the field trip shared their observations with the group. The potential for a trail connection between the three properties owned by the developer was considered desirable, to potentially establish a broader community sense among these apartment occupants. Additional trail possibilities extend beyond the area controlled by this developer. It was concluded that there was a need to develop a wider connections plan for this high-density part of town to define Town goals for moving people safely and enabling walking access within the area and to developed recreational areas and the shopping district. Connection to existing local trails and the Nipmuck trail would also be desirable.

7. Executive session in accordance with CGS section 1200(6)(D)

- *Sale or purchase of Real Property*
- *Discussion of possible site selection*

Entered executive session 8:07 PM moved T.Harrington seconded V Wetherell

Exited executive session at 8:57

Voted with one abstention to draft a memo to town staff with recommendations

8. Communications

Communications were noted. It was observed that there had not yet been a public notice for the proposed hearing on the Simpson property acquisition.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10: moved Morrow, seconded Apgar

Respectively submitted

Ken Feathers, Secretary