

Meeting Minutes, **Upton Open Space Committee**, June 19th, 2008, 7.30 pm

Members present:

Chip Boyle
Cathy Dodd
Tom Dodd
Mike Penko
Marcella Stasa

Chip is still waiting for access to the website.

Mike is proposing a fuel wood lottery. There are some trees to be taken down at the Elm Street Chamber and at Stefans among other town-owned parcels. A listing can be put in the Town Crier in September with details. This should be proposed to the Conservation Commission.

The Kent property on both sides of Westborough Road will be for sale. It is 50 or 60 acres of chapter 61 land and the family would like to see as much as possible preserved. It abuts State Forest land and the state might be interested but there are already two properties they are giving attention to. Five of the children of the Kent family are in the trust and they may sell some buildable lots.

Metacomet Land Trust meeting regarding Rockwood Meadows will be re-scheduled for July.

Doug Harris says that the state is still interested in Pratt Hill. An archaeology study still needs to be done. The Oak Hairstreak butterfly (species of special concern) has been mapped for Pratt Hill based on sighting on Mechanic Street.

Will we be able to get the Scenic Roads Bylaw ready for the September Town Meeting? The Storm Water Bylaw is going forward – Con Com is working with Ken Picard on that. It's in the Master Plan and we would be implementing it.

Glen Echo soccer field parking lot is planned very close to the foundation of the old schoolhouse. The plan could be changed to shrink the size of the field and reduce its impact.

MESA application regarding the Stefans parking, garden and day-use areas has been signed by selectman Robert Fleming and submitted by the Land Stewardship Committee. If the application is approved we may be working with Lisa Stratton on the Community Garden. We'll need to look at amending the soil and bringing water in. Lisa is very motivated but the Open Space committee and LSC should be the guiding body. We need to be sure that clean fill is used and that contaminants are kept out of Warren Brook. Gardeners would probably need to sign waivers and have license agreements with the town and this would be monitored by the LSC.

Access to the Miscoe Hill parcel might still be possible through Mendon. We should ask self-help grantors on their thoughts on access since the road has not been abandoned from Mendon. It is still a good keystone property abutting chapter 61 land.

August or September would be a good time to make contact and Mike will be in touch with the owner, Mr. Beckshaw.

Mike made a motion to contact the state self-help program and follow through. This was unanimously approved.

We need to look into access to the Knowlton Risteen Building during off hours to do GIS work.

Rick Holmes brought Jen Thompson's property on Westborough road to the attention of the Community Preservation Committee. The Planning Board members on the CPC were not opposed to an open space development. Ms. Thompson was aware of the Open Space Bylaw. She had previously asked about putting in an A&R lot and selling the rest to the town. The OSC does not have to be involved except to comment on an open space plan.

The Thompson land checklist was reviewed. Comments were made on how to improve the checklist.

Chip suggested we have an on-line file where we can access and store OSC information.

The five year action plan was reviewed.

(Meeting adjourned, 1030)