

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 20, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Hatfield, Andrew Magee, Jane Ceraso, Karen O'Neill, Peter Ashton, Ruth Martin, Charlie Carlson, Cheryl Lowe

CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR: Tom Tidman

- 1) Andy opened the meeting at 7:32 AM. A motion was made and all voted in favor of the Minutes of Dec. 16th – approved. (One clarification regarding the review of 40B guidelines was noted).
- 2) Karen gave an update on the **Whitcomb parcel** that is being considered for purchase by the Acton Conservation Trust. The ACT has done some title exams and has found out that there is some confusing language and we may need more work before we can get an insurable title. ACT will discuss options on a Board meeting on Tuesday. If we do want to bring it to the town, the CPC meets on Thursday.
- 3) Karen reported a conversation she had the week of January 16th with **Mary Donald**. Mary was trying to understand the question of timing for her tax deduction. Her accountant told her this was the final year and she had to get it filed by April. Karen noted that the CR was sent to the state at the end of 2000. Karen also asked Mary if she would like to make a counter offer to the OSC offer letter. Mary said she was not ready.
- 4) **Conservation land inventory** – Dick Hatfield reported the following.
 - a. Acton has 16 named conservation properties that include 103 parcel descriptions and a total of 1400 acres
 - b. 26 unnamed conservation properties that include 26 parcels descriptions and a total of 157 acres. These vary from .1 to 30 acres.
 - c. Acton water district owns 400 acres
 - d. The cemetery has 174 acres with 132 undeveloped
 - e. State has 202 acres.
- 5) **Action:** Dick and Charlie will assemble a list of each of the conservation properties (a&b). Tom will provide a map (showing surrounding areas). **Action:** Peter will determine if a town meeting vote is needed to put CR's on these properties. Group will discuss at future meeting.
- 6) **Article 97** - Karen distributed some education materials about Art. 97 recently presented at the annual Mass Land Trust Alliance meeting.
- 7) Andy distributed information from the **Wayland Neighborhood Initiative**. This successful program has the goal of bringing data about what is open and buildable to individual neighborhoods. Then assembling neighborhood groups to look at options for protection (zoning, buy, right of first refusal, cr, etc.). Karen will share with ACT, as well. (Topic for a future meeting).

- 8) CPA committee – Andy presented the OSC request for 400K set aside for open space.
- 9) **Heritage landscapes program:** Peter passed out information and noted that Acton has the grant and that much of the work is done by the state consultant. There will be a forum in March that OSC should attend.
- 10) Andy noted that the **Peet parcel** has the frontage access approval to go forward with her plans. She will meet with him later today.
- 11) Next meeting Feb 17, Friday, at 7:30 AM
- 12) Close at 9:45