

Hamilton Open Space Subcommittee
Minutes of Meeting of September 1, 2015
Meeting Held at Hamilton Town Hall

Members Present: Nancy Baker, Gretel Clark, Anne Gero, Emer McCourt, Zachery Peters

Ms. Baker opened the meeting at 4:05 pm.

Land Acquisition Policy (the "Policy")

Ms. Gero reviewed with the Members a revised draft of the comment letter. This draft incorporated most of the comments she received from individual Members and set forth several questions and points that needed clarifications by the Subcommittee. The Members reviewed the revised draft, discussed the questions and points to be clarified, and then offered and agreed to specific language changes to address the same.

It was decided that Ms. Baker would reach out to the Conservation Commission to inquire whether they have a preference regarding how the OSC communicates to other town boards and committees. That is to say, should communications be directly between the OSC and such other boards and committees, or should it be conveyed to the Conservation Commission for distribution by them.

The Members then discussed the process for finalizing the letter. All Members present noted that they were comfortable with Ms. Gero making the edits discussed at the meeting, and with Ms. Baker then making any final edits that she deems appropriate. Once Ms. Baker is satisfied with the draft letter and has received direction from the Conservation Commission regarding the distribution of the letter, she should sign and distribute it accordingly.

Ms. Clark made a motion that the Subcommittee finalize and distribute the letter as discussed and Ms. Gero seconded the motion. The Members unanimously approved the following:

That Ms. Baker sign and distribute the comment letter subject to (a) Ms. Gero incorporating all of the comments specifically discussed at the meeting, (b) Ms. Baker making any other changes that she deems appropriate, and (c) Ms. Baker distributing the letter as directed by the Conservation Commission.

Marc Johnson, a Member of the Board of Selectmen ("BOS") then addressed the OSC. He explained that once he receives comments from various town boards and committees on the draft Policy, he will produce a redraft, which will go to all of the

Members of the BOS together with copies of comment letters and emails received by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson explained that the purpose of the Policy is to establish the priorities of the Town with respect to land parcels, and to empower the Town to move forward with those priorities when the occasion arises. He noted that it is difficult for the Town to react to a Chapter 61 notice within the statutory time frames, that the Policy should help in this regard, and that there will always be a Town Meeting vote for any land acquisitions by the Town.

The OSC reviewed with Mr. Johnson its belief that the time frames and process set forth in the draft Policy are not adequate in the event the Town receives a Chapter 61 notice, and that the ranking system on which the Policy is based would be of little value.

Next Meeting

The Members agreed to meet again at 6:30pm on September 9th at the Public Library.

Ms. Baker moved to adjourn. Ms. Gero seconded the motion. The Subcommittee voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.