

Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes 6/12/14

Attendees: Mark Reil, Barry Iadarola, Peter Coffin, Anne Mazar, Sharon Cutler
Guests: Residents: John Gomersal, Mike Amendolia, Becky Kalagher (Bay State Trail Riders Assoc.)

The meeting was called to order by Anne Mazar, Chairman at 7:35p.m. Anne advised the Committee that Mark Reil had been appointed as the BOS representative on the Land Use Comm. for the upcoming year. She also advised us the open space and recreation plan has been approved and will be valid until 2020.

Discussions took place on the proposed \$500.00 that would be acted upon at the upcoming 6/25 STM to provide signage for the two new trails under discussion. Sharon moved that the trails be named the Quisset Road Trail and the Inman Hill Trail, Mark seconded the motion which passed with unanimous approval. John Gomersal offered to walk the trail and mark them. Becky noted that the Trail Riders will need to assess if Quissett Road Trail can be used by the Trail Riders. **Peter moved that signage and mapping should start with Inman Hill for appropriate access which would be contingent upon approvals from Town Counsel for horse riding. Mark seconded the motion which passed with unanimous approval.** Once approved by Town Counsel, Anne agreed to post on the web site when maps are complete. The committee agreed that the maps should include mileage of each trail and a legend that offers the type and number of parking spaces allowed for each trail.

Discussion took place on the Pearson property, which is 70 acres, not 100 acres, for this chapter 61A property as originally thought. The Town will need a letter from Larry Pearson for the Town to act on first right of refusal. Rumor has indicated that a figure of \$1.1M is being sought. Anne felt the BOS should be asked to allow for the full 3 months allowed to respond so the Town/LUC and other Town Boards can properly review the options. The committee agreed that the full review would be needed.

The committee reviewed maps of the sites of two Pleasant Street properties (number 26 & number 32) that are under tax taking by the Town Treasurer. These two sites could allow access and connections to Meadw Brook Woods, Cormier Woods, Southwick's, Town Forest and old Lamothe property and the property being considered for sports fields, which were also viewed on the maps. Discussions took place and the potential to use one as access and perhaps sell the second to help any of the potential costs associated with the development.

Anne updated the committee on the Mendon North Avenue Vegetable Farm project. John Gannett had agreed to change the deed restriction to allow farming and will donate funds to dig a well. There are some legal things to work through. We have the beginnings of an Organic Gardening (IPM) Integrated Pest Management project.

The committee spent considerable time reviewing the Trails by-law which will be voted on at the 6/25 STM. Questions arose from Committee members:

- In some state forests, snowmobiles are considered different from “motorized vehicles”. This may be a consideration since snowmobiles do not do the same type of trail damage that motorized bikes would do.
- Hours of use restrictions could pose a problem with existing state laws that allow hunters access from ½ hour before sunrise to a ½ hour after sunset. As written, the hunters felt this could be too restrictive and not supportable.
- The proposed by-law as written would limit allowable trail maintenance tools that may be needed to remove fallen limbs etc. This should be corrected before voting for an approval at STM.

Barry moved that the minutes from the 5/8/14 meeting be approved as written. Peter seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous approval.

Barry moved that the meeting be adjourned and the motion was seconded by Mark. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Cutler