

Acton Open Space Committee
Approved minutes of Sept 11, 2009

Attending: Dick Hatfield, Andy Magee, Peter Ashton, Karen O'Neill, Charlie Carlson, Jeff Clymer, Mike Gowing, Terry Maitland, Tom Tidman, Susan Mitchell Hardt, Christa Collins, and Susan

1. Minutes of July 17th were approved with once edited with Susan Mitchell-Hardt's edits. Tom will edit and re-send.
2. Question was raised if the June minutes were approved. ACTION: Karen will review her notes and get the answer to the OSC next meeting>
3. Newtown Road – There is no news on this parcel. The landowner has not contacted Peter. ACTION: Peter will contact landowner.
4. Open Space Plan – status – still some work left to be done.
5. Piper Lane house has not been sold. Need to carve out a house lot or purchase an adjacent lot. ACTION: Susan MH will ask her ACT board about their interest in approaching neighboring landowners.
6. Stonefield and Caouette properties – Peter noted that a group of OSC / SVT/ACT members met with the family in June. It was an open, frank, and friendly meeting. We discussed the interest the town has in protecting the property, our mutual interest in seeing the property stay in agricultural, and the value of conservation restrictions. The next step was the family agreeing that the town could do an appraisal. During that June meeting, we also discussed the (long) process of doing a conservation restriction. The Simeone family appeared to be fine with this timeline.

Note: Terry Maitland noted that he is a direct abutter to this property and therefore will not participate in any votes the committee takes.

It was also noted in the June meeting that the Caouette family is ready (or may have already) to put their property back on the market. They were, at one time, very interested in a developers offer of \$1.2 million.

Peter asked: "What exactly do we want to have appraised?" "And who will pay for it?"

RE: the latter question: Peter suggested that perhaps SVT could pay 25%, ACT could pay 25% and the town pay 50%. ACTION: Both land trust representatives agreed to talk to their boards about this.

Re: What exactly to get appraised. – Karen proposed that we appraise the full parcel, doing the exact same perimeter as their original appraisal. Do an "apples to apples" assessment. The OSC discussed the pros and cons of this proposal.

ACTION: SVT will approach Simeone family to get a better understand of exactly what this entails.

A Motion was made, seconded on the proposal. All voted in favor, with one member (Terry M) abstaining.

ACTION: Peter will talk to the TM about the appraisal.

The OSC also discussed that it might be cost effective to do a separate appraisal of the Caouette property if they are willing. All agreed it might be appropriate to do an appraisal. ACTION: Andy and SVT will talk to landowner about this.

7. Peter recommended that someone on the committee attend the Ch. 61 workshop on Sept 24. 6- 8 PM Karen suggested in the meeting that she would like to attend – however, since the OSC, she has discovered that she will be away.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, Oct. 9th at 7:30 PM

FUTURE meetings will be the First Friday of each Month.