

Open Space Ad Hoc Committee
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – 7:30 PM
Minutes

Members Present: Brandon Kibbe (Clerk), Ana Lockwood (Vice Chair), Eric Hinds, Matthew Allison, Mary Wilson.

1. Vice Chairman Lockwood called meeting to order at 7:30pm.
2. **Review and Approve Minutes, 9/8/22, 2/8/23, 4/12/23**: Kibbe moved as a slate, Wilson seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. **110 Burrage Street – Continued Discussion**: Joined by Sharon Jordan, of 77 Burrage (across street from subject). Described contamination of industrial waste on subject. Forested, tributaries to the Cataconamaug Brook. Owners want to develop the property for housing. Owner asking water district to extend water district to serve development (groundwater wells restricted). B. Kibbe recounted the open space criteria for consideration for acquisition, requiring 3 out of 6. The subject property may only meet 2 or 3. Lane and Saliba acquisitions each hit 5 out of 6; it may be difficult to get the limited resources of the town (money, volunteer effort). S. Jordan will provide a summary. M. Wilson confirmed that the property doesn't meet the criteria. M. Allison asked about other sources of funding; B. Kibbe described several sources of grant funding and challenges surrounding those sources.
4. **Upcoming Town Master Plan Process**: M. Allison reports that master planning process will begin soon, 18-24 month process. \$150k to hire 3 consultants. 10-year planning horizon, but will also look beyond. A. Lockwood praised the undertaking and encourages to make sure other town boards are made aware of the process and the ultimate plan.
5. **Committee Comments/Concerns**: M. Wilson gave update about Earth Days activities during month of April. Cleanups of parks, conservation lands, and library. Lots of outreach leading up to the efforts. 13 properties, 122 volunteers, 361 volunteer hours, more than \$11,000 in benefit back to the community. B. Kibbe reminded the committee that these types of activities are important accomplishments to list in future updates to Open Space Plan. A. Lockwood reports that 50% design presentation on May 24th, final plan early June. Looking to submit PARC grant thereafter. Selectmen have approved utilizing ARPA funds towards renovations.
6. **Public Comment**: None.
7. **Next meetings**: June 14, 2023 and July 12, 2023
8. Allison motion, Wilson Seconded. Unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Kibbe