

Minutes of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Implementation Committee  
April 28, 2004  
Room 230 Town Hall

Present: Jessica Cajigas, Peter Church, Sarah Foss, Art Lazarus  
Regrets: Rita Biagioni

Sarah called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Sarah reported that the actual size of the horse farm property on Goldsmith Street that is under a P&S agreement is 38 acres, and endangered or threatened species have been found there.

Sarah gave an update of the walk of the Prouty and Morgan land with Chris Chisholm of the Dept. of Food and Agriculture. Other attendees were Tim Goddard, Tim Storrow and Cynthia Wood of NEFF. Ms. Chisholm seemed interested in the hay fields, and felt that the Morgan fields, which have not been hayed recently, could be reclaimed for agricultural use fairly easily. NEFF has submitted their application to the Dept. of Food and Agriculture, but the Town had not. Tim Storrow offered to help Tim Goddard with the application. There is a May deadline, but there is also another grant round later in the season. Sarah will contact Rick Findlay and see if he would be willing to talk with Dr. Harvey about including his field in the application.

Peter and Art were able to certify a vernal pool in the Spectacle Pond area on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Peter will compile the necessary paperwork and submit it to the State. He also agreed to call Ray O'Neil, who has certified some vernal pools on the Cobb property and has expressed interest in looking for more of them. The season for vernal pools is ending, but we could compile a list of likely sites and plan to check them out next spring.

Peter also reported that there may possibly be \$5 million available for Water Resource protection in Massachusetts, but isn't sure which department would administer the funds. He will keep us informed as he learns more.

On behalf of the Conservation Commission, Art applied to the Natural Resources Conservation Fund for a grant for grasslands management in Long Lake Park, as part of the WHIP project. He got word that the Town will receive a \$3300.00 grant for that purpose, and expects an official letter soon. The money is to be used for technical services; seeding, fertilizing, etc to enhance the area and promote threatened and endangered species on the 12 to 13 acres of grasslands.

NEFF will be holding a trail work day at Prouty Woods on June 5<sup>th</sup>. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45. The next meeting will be held on May 12, 2004 at 7:30 pm in room 230 of the Town Hall.