

Minutes of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation Committee
Weds. March 10, 2004
Room 230 Town Hall

Present: Rita Biagioni, Jessica Cajigas, Peter Church, Sarah Foss, Art Lazarus
Guest: Don MacIver

Rita called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. We discussed some property on Foster St that is coming out of Chapter 61. It's a 20-acre site that Art has walked in the past. He felt that the land had "been abused" and would take some effort to restore. Given the financial state that the Town is in, he felt it wasn't a top priority. He will talk to Barbara Chapin about it, as we've heard that the Cons Com has an interest in preserving it.

There may be some changes to the CR on the Prouty land. We were \$250K short in our commitment; therefore NEFF is considering changing the CR to 85 acres rather than 88, and putting those 3 acres into an APR with the 6-acre Prouty field. Rita will call Tim Goddard to see if the Town and NEFF have met with Chris Chisholm to discuss these APRs.

Peter has not had much luck researching "Agricultural Incentive Districts" as mentioned in the Open Space Plan. He will keep working on it. He also questioned if Littleton has a "Smart Growth" plan in place. The MDC, as well as other State agencies, are only allowed to purchase land in "Smart Growth" communities.

Peter has a map where potential vernal pool sites may be located. This committee will review it on March 15th or 17th; date yet to be finalized. April is the optimum time to look for vernal pools.

Sarah updated the Committee on the pond projects. Long Lake Assn. is looking for people in the watershed to offer their yards for rain gardens; the next phase in the restoration efforts in the area. The parking lot and boat ramp at the Town Beach will also be revamped this summer. No update is available for Mill Pond at this time.

Don mentioned that people have complained to the Trust about non-residents parking at Sarah Doublet Forest and using private the roads around Fort Pond to access the pond with boats and canoes. The residents there have formed a committee to deal with this.

Don also expressed concern that the Trust is being taxed by the Town on lands they have been given, and that someone has logged about 2 dozen trees on the Cobb easement. Art seemed to think that the logging was related to the parking lot that is to be built, but he will investigate further.

Art wrote an article for the *Independent* telling of how many acres Littleton preserved in '03. Currently, 13% of the Town (1460 acres) has some kind of protection. The priority areas for work this summer are the Hartwell land and Cobb cr. Projects will include 3 bridges; 2 at Cobb's and 1 at Mary Shepherd. The Boy Scouts did a wonderful job clearing the edges of the field at Long Lake Park, and Art hopes they will assist with the bridge building. He reported that Jim Clyde is looking into installing gates on the Hartwell land, and Art is still trying to find a suitable sign company.

The Town is sponsoring "Green-up Days" from April 22-25. More information is available on the Town web site: www.LittletonMa.org.

The Conservation Trust's annual meeting will be held on April 30 at the High School. They have engaged Mark and Marcia Wilson, who will present a show on owls and Alaska.

NEFF is holding a presentation on March 24th at their offices on Foster St regarding the Pingree Forest conservation easement that they hold in northern Maine. *We will cancel our regularly scheduled meeting in order to attend.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:00. The next scheduled meeting will be on **April 14th** at the Conservation Commission office at 7:30 pm.