

Fremont Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Approved 05/13/2009

Attendance: Janice O'Brien, Kenn Jones, Jack Karcz, Tina Sturdivant, Jean Ragonese, Brett Hunter, Selectman, Jack Downing Zoning Board, Aja Mahoney, Garden Club, Dennis Howland.

Meeting began at 7:04 pm.

Theresa Walker RPC

Ms. Walker met with the members of the committee concerning a 7 acre property in town which has been selected as a Brownfield's Project candidate site. The owner of the property has agreed to have the property evaluated and cleaned of any contamination found on the property. The Environmental Protection Agency funds up to 200,000 to clean up properties that are municipally owned and waives the liability associated with possible contaminants found on the property site. There was no major contamination sites found on the property. The projected cost associated with the cleaning up the site is approximately 60,000. In order for the site to be cleaned up under the Brownfield Project, the property would have to be owned by the Town of Fremont. It is the desire of the Selectmen and Conservation Commission NOT to spend any Town money to purchase this parcel of land. Grant funding will be pursued. The property currently exists within the flood plain of the Exeter River and could provide public access to the river if the Town were to purchase the property.

Ms. Walker left the meeting at 7:18 pm.

David West and Julie LeBranch from RPC

At 7:20 pm Mr. David West and Ms. Julie LeBranch met with the committee about the CTAP Open Space Plan for the Town of Fremont and the creation of the Open Space Plan Task Force. The Open Space Plan Task Force will meet over the next few months in four to five, two hour meetings to create the Open Space Plan using GIS data and NH GRANIT natural and cultural resource data layers. The Open Space Plan will be added to the Town's Master Plan. The goal of the task force is to identify important resources "green infrastructure" and rank them according to importance. The committee will use the green infrastructure information designate areas within the Town which have the highest priority for open space and/or conservation easements.

The plan for this evening meeting is to identify what features are of highest value or priority for an Open Space Plan. Ranking spreadsheet were designed by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and tailored for use for the Town of Fremont. These ranking sheets will be filled out and discussed four times tonight to help narrow down the areas of highest importance from 15 to about five.

The committee members filled out the first survey sheets at about 8:15 pm. After entering the data there was a round table discussion about the selections.

The second survey sheet was started around 8:35 pm. The data was entered and a brief discussion followed.

The third round of ranking started at 8:59 pm. Again the data was reviewed and discussed.

The fourth round began at 9:15 pm. After this round the list was narrowed to six areas of importance. Mr. West and Ms. LeBranch will bring maps and compiled results to the next meeting so the task force can review the information and move onto the second part of the process.

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on May 5, 2009 at 7:00 pm on the main floor of Town Hall.

Mr. Jones noted that the date from the meeting minutes from January needed to have the year corrected. Mr. Jones then made a motion to accept the minutes from January 7, 2009. Motion seconded by Mr. Karcz.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Mr. Karcz.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Sturdivant