

Rockland Open Space Committee Meeting, 1/13/2025. 6:30pm, Chaffee Meeting Room, Town Offices

Attending: Donald Cann, Chair, Mike Bromberg, Vice-Chair, Pam Titus, Rick Snee, Kathy Kirby

Mr. Cann opened the meeting. Ms Titus moved, seconded by Mr. Snee, for approval of the minutes of the 11/18/24 meeting. Approved unanimously

Questions submitted by the Committee to the Select Board, which have remained unanswered, were next discussed. Ms. Quinn has not approached the Select Board on the subject. The Committee discussed the unfairness of the Select Board's changing the duties and activities of the Committee without a vote at Town Meeting where the Committee's functions were approved. Mr. Bromberg noted, especially, that the Town Meeting description of duties included working with others. In many cases, this would not be possible under current prohibitions. The need to press the Select Board for answers was discussed.

The Open Space Plan status from Ms. Quinn was reviewed. Ms. Kirby noted the need to make recommendations for a Plan Committee. Ms. Titus said that Ms. Quinn is needed to do this.

Ms. Titus had no updates of parcels that remain to be recorded. She has sent emails to the Assistant Town Administrator, but there have not been any new updates.. The last communication from Attorney Galvin, Town Land Counsel, was months ago. It was noted that, in addition to a private practice, Mr. Galvin is Counsel for two other towns. It was suggested that Mr. Galvin be asked to attend a meeting to discuss these matters. Mr. Snee advised that the Channing Church is having difficulty tracing the deed for some property gifted. Mr. MacFaden advised that, once land is acquired by the Town, a conservation restriction, held by Wildlands Trust, would be placed on it. Mr. MacFaden noted that the Town of Marshfield Open Space Committee acquired 307 acres of "owner unknown" land with CPA funds.

Mr. MacFaden and Mr. Cann gave an update on the Camp Alice Carleton land. Whitman will vote at its spring Town Meeting as to final disposition.

The Committee discussed Union Point, particularly the amenities plan which is part of the current legislation, but was not included in proposals by New England Development/Turquoise Union Point. It is anticipated that the current developer will seek new legislation for the property that will not include an amenities plan.

The Committee considered land at 1119 Union Street, linking to conservation land at Lovell Arena. Mr. Cann moved, seconded by Mr. Snee, that the properties be deeded to the Town of Rockland, with Conservation Restrictions to be held by Wildlands Trust. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Cann discussed the formation of a regional Open Space organization. Ms. Kirby said that the scope of such an organization and whether towns have Open Space Committees needs to be investigated.

The Committee began discussion of the Annual Town Report and agreed to continue the discussion at a later meeting.