

WOODSTOCK OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022 AT 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and attendance:** S.Blodgett called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Members present were C.Adams (remote), S.Blodgett, C.Cutler, G.French, R.Gale, E.Hebert, A.Monahan, S.Morse and C.Paquette
2. **Appointing Alternates as Needed:** none
3. **Minutes:** Minutes from the March 10th meeting were reviewed and approved
4. **Public Comment or Questions:** Mr. Ray Morgan, owner of property adjacent Town of Woodstock land on the north side of Quarry Road, expressed his concerns about the potential transfer of ownership of the town-owned property. If the town decided to sell the land, he would like to be considered as a potential buyer. Mr. Morgan stated that he would comply with any and all land use restrictions (ie. "conservation easement") which the town would require. He expressed concerns about the public's use of his existing right-of-way across town-owned property. First Selectmen Jay Swan stated that a sale of town-owned property to a private party, as opposed to a non-profit organization, would have the benefit of property taxes being paid to the town. The Committee also discussed: (1) whether the town should pursue a policy of selling its land holdings to private parties, (2) past practices of land disposal, (3) competitive or "open bidding" policies if and when private parties are interested in purchasing town-owned land, and (4) legal issues associated with the existing right-of-way.

A.Monahan offered to compile any and all legal questions from the Commission regarding this issue. The membership is encouraged to submit those to her a.s.a.p.

5. Wyndham Land Trust / Quarry Road:

a) Suggested Motion 1 – tabled for further discussion

b) Suggested Motion 2 – tabled for further discussion

6. Committee Reports: C.Adams (Conservation Commission) stated that the native plant landscape workshop was well attended. C. Cutler and C.Paquette (Board of Selectmen) communicated that the Board is primarily working on the annual budget. A.Monahan stated that the Recreation Commission is preparing for several upcoming annual events, and that the Recreation Department is transitioning to new software which should simplify and streamline event registrations and other processes. S.Morse and E.Hebert (Agricultural Commission) have participated in the town's draft "Affordable Housing Plan" (AHP). S.Blodgett (Planning & Zoning Commission) added that the AHP has recently been the focus of the Commission.

7. Executive Session to discuss ongoing preservation projects: A motion to enter Executive Session was made and seconded at 8:00; motion approved. A motion to exit Executive Session was made and seconded at 8:01; motion approved.

8. Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 8:02

9. Next meeting: May 12, 2022