

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 18, 2010
Newington Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Chairman Bowen convened the meeting at 7:00 pm. The following members were present: Mrs. Nasinnyk, Ms. Wojtowicz, Mrs. Conway, Mr. Bottalico (8:35), Mrs. Anest, Mr. Block and Mr. Marcinczyk.

Town Planner, Ed Meehan

II. Minutes

February 18, 2010 – Mrs. Nasinnyk moved to approve, seconded by Mrs. Conway and approved as presented.

March 4, 2010 – Mrs. Nasinnyk moved to approve, seconded by Mrs. Anest and approved as presented.

III. Public Participation

Mrs. Pat Hauser, CCSU Professor of Urban Planning and students were present to observe the Committee.

IV. New Business – Subcommittee Reports

A. Land Trust Subcommittee

Ms. Wojtowicz reported that she is continuing to gather information on the pros and cons of creating a Newington Land Trust.

Chairman Bowen requested that the Open Space Committee have the opportunity to review and comment on this report and its recommendations prior to presentation to the Town Council

It was concluded that the subcommittee would work on drafting a report summarizing the pros and cons of a land trust, outline the steps and potential incorporation costs.

B. Open Space Grants Subcommittee

Mr. Meehan reported that the Committee's request to the Town Council for funds to retain appraisers and authorization to apply for 2010 DEP Open Space grant will be on the Town Council's March 23rd agenda. It is very important that the property to be appraised be agreed upon as soon as possible because appraisal firms will need at least one month to prepare their reports.

The consensus of the Committee was to recommend to the Town Council a grant application for the westerly 14 acre ridgeline of the Marcap LLC property on East Cedar Street.

V. Old Business

A. Chairman Bowen reported that he spoke with a representative of the Balf Company about the Committee's interest in preservation of the ridgeline and was told Balf is studying their options and any future land use decisions are three to four months away. The Marcap LLC owners have not responded to the Chairman's February 11, 2010 letter, Ed Meehan will try to contact them again.

B. Chairman Bowen reported that Representative Nafis submitted at Bill # 5520 requesting the conveyance of 40 acres of the westerly slope of Cedar Crest Hospital to the Town of Newington for permanent open space protection. The public hearing on this bill will be Friday, March 19th at 12 noon.

Mr. Block moved that the Committee support Bill # 5520 and the Chairman be authorized to speak in support of this proposal, seconded by Mrs. Conway and approved.

The information Ed Meehan prepared describing the Hospital's westerly ridgeline slope and significance of the 40 acres open space preserve was distributed to Committee members (see attached).

VI. Public Participation

A resident of the Mountain Road neighborhood was present and thanked the Committee for its work. She encouraged the preservation of as much of the vacant Cedar Mountain area as possible.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Block moved adjournment at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. Marcinczyk and approved.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan
Town Planner

Town Clerk
Town Website