Open Space/Master Plan Committee Minutes
Town Hall, Banquet Hall
Minutes of May 6, 2009

Members Present: Bill Simpson Jr., Tim Simon, Gwen Broz, Sarah Heller

Others Present: Alison Kane (Tantasqua Intern), Carol Childress (Grant Writer), Jonathan Church (CMRPC – Economic Chapter), Trish Settles (CMRPC – OSRP)

Members Not Present: Cheri Carty, Sharon Mahoney

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

(1) Alison Kane presented her report on Town Government. Members present commended Alison on a thorough, professional job and agreed that it was a great addition to the Master Plan.

(2) Jonathan Church went over the edits to the Economic Development Chapter that Sarah provided based on her notes from the April 21 Planning Board meeting. He agreed to revise the chapter and then hand it over to the committee in MSWord so the committee can continue to revise it as new edits come in. He will also send a PDF of the build-out map.

(3) There was discussion about who the intended audience is for the MP. Jonathan said that the Planning Board was the primary audience. Tim said that he would like it accessible for community members. It was clarified that the MP does not need state approval, only the OSRP requires that. The MP must be accepted by the Planning Board and it is sent to the state but they don't have to approve it. Many towns have town meeting accept it as well.

(4) The was discussion about providing a summary of the MP for townspeople who don't want to wade through all the data. Trish will send a copy of the Paxton summary.

(5) Carol asked if CMRP would be willing to do contracts on a chapter by chapter basis as grants are difficult to come by. Jonathan said that CMRP can do that.

(6) Trish discussed the draft goals for the OSRP. She stressed the importance of having discussions with the Recreation Committee. Bill and Tim said that they would try to get someone from the Rec Committee to come to our next meeting (May 20).

(7) For the OSRP, it is important to have letters of approval from the Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, CMRPC and ideally have the Conservation Committee, Rec Committee, and other outside groups such as Opacum Land Trust, Audubon etc.

(8) We agreed to ask Rosemary from CMRPC (Housing Chapter) not to come to the May 20 meeting so we can concentrate on OSRP. Trish will meet with us from 6:30-7:30 (hopefully with the Rec Committee) and then we will go to the Planning Board meeting and discuss OSRP with them and Trish.

(9) There was discussion about implementation of the OSRP. Carol said that some towns establish an OS Committee,. Conservation and Recreation Committees should be involved or even could be in charge of implementation.

(10) Sarah agreed to get to Trish the ballot article about eliminating excise taxes for farmers.

(11) Sarah agreed to contact Ron Couture for Historical Committee input for the OSRP (Scenic Roads, Quaboag Old Brookfield Path, etc) and Native American contacts. Hopefully Ron can come to a meeting to give input. She also agreed to try to find out about the Salmon Brook Land Trust.

(12) Tim will ask the assessors about a possible rail trail.

(13) Donna Neylon should be contacted to see what she knows about permanently protected land in town.

(14) Tim will work with Trish on editing the OSRP maps and Tim will work on making a map of the whole town that can be put up on a wall in the banquet hall. He has the assessors maps on CD.

(15) We discussed "Right to Farm" legislation and setting up an Agriculture Committee.

(16) Carol will contact Selectmen about writing letters that the Selectmen would send to CMRPC about using DLTA funds for the Master Plan.

(17) Trish would like feedback on the goals, objectives and recommendations for the OSRP. Look at page 55 of her draft.

(18) Gwen moved, Sarah seconded that we have a policy that anyone missing 4 meetings in a row be asked to resign the committee. Sarah will look for the wording that the Advisory Board has about this.

(19) We agreed to change our meetings in June to Thursday instead of Wednesday because of scheduling conflicts. Sarah will post the meetings for the first and third Thursday of June.

(20) Bill moved, Sarah seconded that we adjourn at 8:30pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Heller

Date approved by the Committee: April 22, 2010

Date submitted to the Selectmen's office: June 10, 2010