

**Casco Open Space Commission  
Minutes  
January 18, 2010  
Casco Public Library**

Commissioners present: Grant Plummer, Lisa Willey-Critchfield, Eric Dibner

Absent: Jim Stepp, Barbara York

Others present: Pamela Edwards

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m. The Commission added an item to the draft agenda, the discussion of a budget.

**The minutes of December 21, 2009 were adopted as distributed.**

Updates by Commissioners –

Grant circulated mail that had arrived for the Commission, including two memos regarding Sebago Lake water level, pamphlets about Maine Stream Team Program, Farmington County SWCD Conservation Expo, and the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) Lake News. Commission discussed the need for a place to house resource materials.

On the Town web page, the Commission is listed under “Conservation” and “Boards and Committees” where its membership, agendas, and minutes are posted. Eric recommended that there be a link from the Conservation page to the minutes and agendas page. The Commission agreed it should develop a page of its own, including the mission, important articles, and links to projects and related groups. Eric will draft a proposed site map. Commissioners present agreed to list contact information (phone or email).

Commission’s mission –

A draft was discussed, resulting in a second paragraph describing *how* the mission will be accomplished. The Commission will accomplish its mission by inventorying open space, planning for conservation and public uses, educating landowners and the general public, using traditional and innovative protection mechanisms such as acquisition or easements with willing landowners, involving the community and partnering with other groups.

A value statement was drafted: Finding effective ways to protect open space (natural resources) for future generations that choose to make Casco their home.

Commissioners raised a discussion about the value of agriculture, community gardens, and farmers markets. This was identified as an area of concern for future consideration.

Budget for the Town warrant –

The Manager needs a budget for the next year's work. Activities that are anticipated are education and outreach, including two mailings and/or events; conservation planning, such as inventories of natural resources; legal consultation regarding land protection mechanisms; and production of maps. The cost of the Greenprint project is being presented separately at town meeting, but maintaining Greenprint data in future years may be an item to consider then.

**Motion approved to request the Manager to include a budget of \$3500 for the next year (in addition to whatever remains from Commission's current year funds), and to include an article for \$30,000 for land protection at Town Meeting. (Dibner moved, Plummer seconded, unanimous.)**

Next meeting 2/15/10 agenda items include –

- Website
- Mission statement
- Budget
- Action plan 2010-2011

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.