

**Casco Open Space Commission
Minutes
March 15, 2010
Casco Public Library**

Present: Grant Plummer, Eric Dibner, Jim Stepp, Barbara York
Absent: Lisa Willey-Critchfield
Others present: Pamela Edwards

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes of February 15, 2010 were adopted as distributed.

Updates by Commissioners – Eric said David Morton will notify us when the Finance Committee will consider the COSC budget, a Wednesday evening in April.

Lakes Region Greenprint acceptance will be on the Selectmen's agenda March 23, and Grant will attend. **The Commission nominated and approved Grant Plummer to serve for the Commission as a representative on the LRG Steering Committee.** Pam mentioned some of the Casco people who will be interviewed: Holly Hancock, Kevin Hancock, Skip Watkins, Pat Troy, Trevor Tidd, Calvin Nutting, Dave Morton.

Commission web site – Jim reported the host outfit would let us have a sub-domain page for \$20/year. **It was moved and approved to create a sub-domain under the Casco website.** Commissioners should send Jim what they would like on the site, and he will organize the material using Front Page. Jim will email the Commission a reminder.

Action Plan – Not acted on, pending discussion with Lisa.

Open Space Inventory (Work Plan items 8-11, 13):

Maps – Pam distributed a list of maps she has available and explained how they can be layered. Town maps and the Beginning with Habitat (BwH) maps can be shown together. The Commission identified focus topics, including diverse habitat, large parcels, connections (e.g., for linear recreation or for animal corridors), soils, streams and wetlands. Re additional focus areas, Commissioners should look at the list for maps they want to see featured and consider what overlays will allow us to see where

to protect multiple values that work for the majority of townspeople. Next step is a list of the overlays we want to see.

Focus topics – Discussion included: Linear recreation. Snowmobiles (who has the data? Ray Grant drags the trails; Larry Carter or Roger Newt). Ski trails. Public use, land share, and public land, such as Town-owned properties. Forests in tree growth, managed forests, and designated open space. Farmland, agricultural soils (examples: Frank property, Meadow Brook). BwH-identified areas of concern, plus lakes, ponds, and streams. Question: should the mapping consider growth pressure?

Follow-up to see what data and maps are available and where is GPS research needed – Jim will check with Ray Grant. Grant can check with Rich Merk re SWOAM. Grant will ask for input from Department of Agriculture. Pam will provide aerial views that are from 2001 and 6” resolution.

Vernal pool inventory — Eric will talk with Lisa, who has worked on an inventory, and he will recommend a process.

A site walk of additional Town property will be scheduled for mid-May.

Next meeting date is changed to 4/26 because of school vacation week

Adjourned at 9:09 p.m.