



Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org>

Future Open Space Committee Report

2 messages

Michael McGovern <michael.mcgovern@capeelizabeth.org>

Wed, Feb 13, 2013 at 9:44 AM

To: "Maureen O'Meara (Maureen O'Meara)" <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org>

Cc: Kathy Ray <retbank@maine.rr.com>

Dear Maureen,

On Monday, February 11, 2013, the town council considered the report of the Future Open Space Committee and specifically reviewed potential implementation steps. The following referrals were adopted. Please provide to the respective groups the full referral to all groups so that they will be aware of what other bodies are working on.

Thank you very much.

Mike

Referral to the Conservation Commission:

The town council requests the conservation commission to prepare and implement a public education effort to increase public knowledge of the amount of publicly owned and accessible open space and the past and ongoing financial commitment made to acquire and maintain open space. The commission should include in its public education effort opportunities for direct public involvement in open space planning, prioritization and maintenance.

When the conservation commission updates the greenbelt plan, it should include the open space definition as follows:
"Land and water areas, either public or private, maintained in an essentially undeveloped state (which may include athletic fields) for use as active or passive recreation, wildlife habitat, agriculture, or preservation"

Referral to the Ordinance Committee:

The FOSP Committee recommended that the *Conservation Commission duties and authority be revised as necessary to task it with primary responsibility for preparing and submitting open space evaluation and preservation recommendations to the Town Council. Conservation Commission membership should be increased to 9 to improve its capacity to perform its expanded duties.*

The ordinance committee is requested to review this recommendation and to recommend language back to the town council. The town council in discussion leaned to deferring to a recommendation from the conservation commission that its membership stay at 7 members but will look at making one complete recommendation

Referral to the Planning Board:

FOSP recommended that the current regulations promoting clustering be retained. More work should be done to investigate the potential for increasing the amount of open space that is preserved while maintaining the density allowed that makes this a desirable option for property owners. More emphasis should also be put on preserving contiguous open space and connectors and less on open space as buffer strips.

The town council requests the planning board should restart its implementation of the Land Use Chapter recommendations in the 2007 Comprehensive Plan, with emphasis on the above recommendation.

FOSP recommended that the town retain the current TDR regulations. The Planning Board should be tasked with reviewing the TDR sending areas map to align it with Open Space criteria priorities. The town council requests that the planning board include this recommendation in its comprehensive plan Land Use Chapter recommendations.

FOSP recommended that the review of growth areas be referred to the Planning Board as part of the resumption of the Planning Board's comprehensive plan implementation work. The Planning Board's comprehensive planning implementation work should include public outreach about the benefits of open space zoning. The Planning Board should also recommend ordinance amendments that make preservation of agricultural land a higher open space priority when preserving open space as part of new development. The town council requests the planning board to do so.

Referral to the Town Manager

The town council requests the town manager consider recommending funding for the land acquisition fund as part of his recommended budget.

The town council requests the town manager as part of the annual carry forward process in June of each year to propose reserving a portion of unutilized overlay funds for the land acquisition fund.

The town council requests the town manager to consider recommending an open space bond of part of the overall capital improvement planning process.

The town council requests the town manager to work with the assessing department to make available information on the availability of state programs to reduce current taxation on open space, agricultural lands and potential tree growth parcels.

Referral to the Town Council Finance Committee

The town council requests the finance committee to consider recommending funding for the land acquisition fund as part of its recommended budget.

The town council requests the finance committee to consider recommending an open space bond of part of the overall capital improvement planning process.

The town council requests the finance committee to consider as part of its budget review the possibility of providing a penny or more in the proposed annual tax rate for land acquisition purposes.

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Maureen O'Meara <maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org> Wed, Feb 13, 2013 at 11:32 AM
To: David Sherman <dsherman@dwmlaw.com>, Garvan Donegan <Garvan.Donegan@maine.edu>, James Wagner <jamiewagnerlaw@gmail.com>, John Marchewka <j.marchewka@maienvironmental.com>, John Planinsek <tplaninsek@myfairpoint.net>, Marti Blair <martiblair@maine.rr.com>, Mitch Wacksman <mitch_wacksman@hotmail.com>, Zach Matzkin <zmatzkin@mac.com>, Elaine Falender <gayerfal@maine.rr.com>, Henry Steinberg <henrysteinberg@yahoo.com>, Josef Chalat <azimuth@maine.rr.com>, Liza Quinn <lq@maine.rr.com>, Peter Curry <peterlc.curry@gmail.com>, Victoria Volent <VVolent@gmail.com>, Jessica Sullivan <jsullivan08@maine.rr.com>

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