

LAND USE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2017 at 7:30 pm Charles River Bank

Members Present: Sharon Cutler, Anne Mazar, Peter Coffin

Guests: Kathy Schofield, Zac Imparato

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Chairman Anne Mazar.

Minutes from the 11/14/16 and 11/22/16 were reviewed. **Motion:** Peter moved that the minutes from both meetings be approved as written. Sharon seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous approval of the Committee.

Bill McHenry applied to the Mass Save Community Initiative Program and Mendon was one of 10 towns accepted into the program. National Grid is partnering with the town to promote the no-cost MassSave energy audit program. The town can earn up to almost \$10,000 depending on how many residents sign up for the energy audits. The funds can be used towards energy efficiency projects. Mendon has generated \$1,300 so far and will be used for programmable thermostats and zone controls.

Discussion took place on the proceeds of \$29,900 from selling the 34 George Street property. Anne suggested funds be used for signage and town hall landscaping. Kathy explained the details of the landscaping, which would be done through a Eagle Scout project and volunteers. \$7K will be paid back to CPA funds as agreed. **Motion:** Peter moved that \$15,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the house lot at 34 George Street fund the replacement of the asphalt in the front of the Mendon Town Hall with a designed landscape of vegetation and a path. Sharon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Signage is required by NHESP to delineate the wood turtle habitat on the 34 George Street lot. **Motion:** Peter moved that the Town transfer \$900.00 from the proceeds of the sale of the house lot at 34 George Street to fund the purchase and installation of the NHESP required signage and monumentation. Sharon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Maintenance of the open space, which is now 32 George Street, is required and for the purpose of this vote the area will be referenced as Pond Farm Conservation Area. **Motion:** Peter moved that the Town transfer \$2,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the house lot at 34 George Street for maintenance of open space at 32 George Street, Pond Farm Conservation Area. Sharon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by the committee.

\$500 worth of signs were donated by the Bay State Trail Riders Association for signage at Inman Hill Wildlife Conservation Area. Anne suggested setting aside funds for signage for the open space properties, so that when volunteers are ready to post signage, the funds would be available. **Motion:** Peter moved that the town transfer \$1,000 from the Mendon Land Bank for signage on town open space properties. Sharon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by the committee.

Discussions are ongoing between Tim Aicardi, Anne, Gary Smith and Ken O'Brien to try negotiate part of the property at 18 & 25 Pleasant Street for agriculture and trail easements.

Inman Pond clean-up for 2017 will be funded completely by the Trustees of Reservations. Eight acres of the nine acre pond were covered with the invasive, non-native water chestnut weed. After years of mechanical removal and hand picking, there is only one acre of dense weeds in an area that cannot be reached by mechanical or handpicking, with the rest of the pond sparsely covered. This year, there is a need for chemical spraying, especially in the area of unreachable dense weeds are located. The rest of the pond will be handpicked. **Motion:** Sharon moved to accept funding by the Trustees of Reservations and proceed with the chemical treatment and handpicking for the Inman Pond Clean-up for 2017. Peter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by the committee.

Blackstone Heritage Corridor Clean-up Day is 4/8 from 9-12 and starts at Clough School. Please ask people to sign up.

Also we are looking for people to join the economic development committee. Please ask interested people to contact Kim Newman.

The property at 131 North Avenue has passed back to John Gannett. It is required that a conservation restriction be placed on the property. The restriction will be added in the future.

The Green Communities new electronic vehicle is in and will be used by the enforcement officer and is available to other people as well who need a vehicle for Town business.

Discussion took place about paying for the MA Land Trust Conference charges of \$50. **Motion:** Peter moved that the town vote to transfer \$50 from the Land Use Committee budget for the Mass Land Trust Conference. Sharon seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous approval of the committee.

Motion: Peter moved that the meeting be adjourned; the motion was seconded by Sharon and passed with unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Submitted by Sharon Cutler

