

LAND USE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2019 7PM.

Mendon Town Hall

Members Present: Peter Coffin, Barry Iadarola and Anne Mazar. **Others Present:** Frank Niro and Lea Botta.

The meeting started at 7:04 PM.

The committee members interview Frank Niro and Lea Botta for the open Land Use Committee position opening. They both showed a lot of interest. Frank is a lawyer and wanted to become involved with town committees. Lea helped out with Solarize Mass Plus grant application and she is an administrator for the Mendon Green Alliance Facebook page. Lea said she wants to stay involved, but has a hard time with evening meetings, because she works at night, so she suggested we select Frank and she will still help out on projects. The committee decided to investigate the option of an alternate committee member and maybe Lea could serve in that role. **Peter made a motion to recommend to the Select Board that they appoint Frank Niro to fill the Land Use Committee vacancy, Barry seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.**

The committee had previously discussed expanding the Land Use Committee members from 5 to 7, but it was decided to pursue the alternate committee member idea. **Barry made a motion to look into adding an alternate to the Land Use Committee, Peter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.** The committee also discussed adding energy use to the Land Use Committee bylaw, but Peter suggested instead of changing the bylaw that maybe the committee could ask the Select Board to set up an adhoc Energy Committee that would be under the Land Use Committee. Anne will look into this.

Anne explained that the Forest Legacy Plan wanted to include Mendon in its service area. This would allow Mendon to access grant funding for land preservation. The committee agreed that Anne would write a letter of support and CC the Conservation Commission.

Pieter de Jong lives in the old Cox house that was restored and he is interested in helping out with the Gaskill Meadow Conservation Area. **Barry made a motion to appoint Pieter de Jong as the Volunteer Land Steward for the Gaskill Meadows Conservation Area at 32 George Street, Peter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.**

The committee members approved participation in the Solarize Mass Plus program. Anne, Lea and others are working on the grant proposal. It will be a joint program with Upton.

Anne found out that the proceeds from the sale of the 15 Inman Hill lot cannot be put into a separate account, unless it has a specific use, such as to purchase a particular parcel of land or a capital project. The town made a net amount of \$119,050.

Barry made a motion to accept the October 2, 2019 meeting minutes, Peter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Barry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM, Peter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by Anne Mazar