

LAND USE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2022 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Anne Mazar, Peter Coffin, Barry Iadarola, Carolyn Barthel and Frank Niro. **Non-members Present:** Stefanie Covino, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative.

1. Anne Mazar introduced Stefanie Covino from the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative (BWC). Stefanie made a presentation to the committee regarding the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the work that the BWC does to preserve and protect the Blackstone River watershed resources. Stefanie explained the Blackstone Collaborative was developed in 2021 to implement the priority goals identified within the Blackstone Needs Assessment Report. BWC provides guidance, feedback a funding of projects to promote these goals. BWC partners with towns, land trusts, and local agencies to support these initiatives. Stefanie explained that her effort is to have the communities along the Blackstone River join in a non-binding resolution to promote these practices. **After discussion, the committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Mendon Select Board adopt this resolution.**
2. The committee unanimously accepted the minutes of the March 29, 2022 meeting.
3. Beaver Solutions – Anne explained that the costs for a second beaver dam solution is approximately \$2,274.00. The Conservation Commission has approximately \$5,000 for beaver management. The New England Biking Association will make a donation of \$500, and a grant may be available for \$500.00. Anne will also be applying for a grant. The committee also discussed annual maintenance costs.
4. Solarize Mass - Anne gave an update on the Solarize Mass efforts. One proposal was to place solar panels on the town library roof.
5. Open Space Encroachments
 - A. George/Pond Street - Anne gave an update on the Pond Street encroachment issue. Anne explained that the stone wall encroaching on the open space has been removed by the developer and a fence and signage has been place on the boundary.
 - B. Inman Hill Road – Anne informed the committee that the surveying work along the open space boundaries has been completed by Guerrier and Halnon of Milford and the survey was presented for discussion. Anne mentioned that the surveyor was not available to comment on the results of the survey. Anne pointed out that there may be encroachments along the Open Space boundary. Barry asked about the scope of the survey and Anne explained that G&H surveyed additional properties along the boundary at no additional cost. Barry expressed concerns about the status of the title to an area claimed to be town owned land and whether the town has clear title to that portion of land. Frank commented that it would be difficult to enforce the removal of the suspected encroachment without clear title to the parcel. After discussion the issue was table for future discussion. **The committee unanimously voted to spend the FY22 Land Use Committee remaining funds (\$477) for signage.**
 - C. Signage – Anne explained that signage is to be placed along the know boundary lines at George Street and Inman Hill. After discussion Barry made a motion to approved the placing of 8 signs along the George Street boundary and 3 signs along the Inman Hill boundary. Frank seconded the motion and it was voted for unanimously.

The committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by Frank Niro