

Lancaster Open Space & Recreation Committee Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 6:30 PM
Lancaster Town Hall

In attendance: Noreen Piazza, Tom Christopher, Shirley Griffin, Ted Manning, Tim Castner

Minutes

Noreen Piazza circulated the minutes from the 9/30/15 meeting. No changes or corrections were noted.

Update – Parcel Protection

A ninth draft of the parcel protection list was circulated for review. A number of areas were cleaned up with adjusted acreage, protection status and protection reasons.

There are no new updates on the transfer of the state forest parcels (13-5, 14-11) to the Town.

The land court case for 19-14 was closed on October 16, 2015, after a day of title examination. It is expected that a decision from the judge will not be rendered for several months.

The title work for 13-4 was concluded by Attorney Jim Coppola. The final determination was that the Town is indeed the true owner of this parcel. A warrant article will be prepared for May Town Meeting that authorizes the BOS to accept the parcel.

Title work continues on Parcels 13-8, 14-15 and 19-11 by Kopelman & Paige. We are expecting to have this wrapped up very soon, at which time the settlement proposal will be finalized and sent to Attorney Tom Bovenzi for review.

Tim Castner reported that three parcels (32-17, 32-18, 32-19) that abut the Town Forest, and are currently under the care and custody of the BOS, will be transferred to the Conservation Commission under the care of the Town Forest Committee. These parcels will be memorialized as the new Eugene Christoph Memorial Wild Forest. The Town Forest Committee will commission a plaque and bench for placement on the site.

It was also confirmed that Parcels 18-58 and 18-59 were deeded to the Lancaster Land Trust from the DeCoste family in the fall. These parcels will be added to the parcel protection list.

Update – Land Acquisition

Tim reported that the Town Forest Committee will work on the purchase of Parcel 29-22 (owner is Dymont/Dolan) this coming year. Financing for this purchase may be possible through another Conservation Partnership Grant with the Land Trust.

Update – Open Space and Recreation Plan

Noreen Piazza reported that the current OSRP is due to expire in May 2017. The next update to the plan should be minor as the current plan was completely re-done in 2010. She will plan to apply for a DLTA

(District Local Technical Assistance) grant from the State to fund this update. The next application for the DLTA grant will be in the fall.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OSRC will be held on 3/30. An agenda is forthcoming.