

MINUTES from the Milton CC Casey Road Land Protection Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Present: Karen Golab, Wayne Sylvester and Virginia Long (acting as Chair for the last time, since Karen Golab has been absent)

GUEST Dan Coons, Interim Executive Director of MMRG

5:30 pm Virginia started the meeting

1. Discussion with Dan Coons about status of accomplishing conservation easement and next steps:

- a. Dan said the fundraising goal has been reached so the Committee's responsibility is complete; if there's a shortfall, MMRG will fill it. Karen asked about what happens if more money comes in for the project, could it be used for trail signs or parking and Dan said he would look into that.
- b. Dan said a new survey has been ordered, consisting mostly of legal research, and the Baseline Documentation is underway by Susan Romano. No appraisal is needed since no grant requires it. Virginia will send Dan the info she found about legal rights-of-way across the property.
- c. Dan suggested using a new up-to-date template easement by SELT rather than the old Liberty Circle easement. Charlie Bridges of MMRG S&L Committee will work on it. The committee told Dan that the Liberty Circle language for goals could be used approximately as is. And we would want there to be a seamless transition going from Liberty Circle to Casey Rd Cons Land, although the easements will be held by different entities.
- d. There was more discussion about easement terms- Dan urged us not to tie the hand of the landowners, but to require a management plan consistent with the goals of the easement.
- e. Dan suggested allowing an exclusion zone up to 1 acre for parking or access at different places.
- f. We can expect to have a draft to review in about a month. Virginia asked Dan to let us know in advance if possible, so we can adjust our meeting date accordingly. Dan hopes to close by the end of the summer. Wayne asked that the draft please highlight anything controversial that we would want to pay attention to. Karen asked for 2 copies, one with and without tracked changes.
- g. A question was raised of which town officials have to be at the closing. BOS probably all have to sign it.
- h. Karen will be the contact for the Committee with Dan. Virginia suggested that Dan be in direct contact with Town Administrator when it comes to getting Legal reviews.
- i. Dan left the meeting around 6:20 pm.

2. Committee continued discussion of easement after Dan left. We discussed various recreational possibilities such as disc golf, glade skiing, snowmobiling, and handicapped accessibility and if those would affect the easement language. We will revisit easement items from the previous list created and will also discuss more after reviewing the draft easement. Virginia suggested we recommend to the BOS to hold a public input session on recreational uses.

3. Review minutes of 3/20/2019 --insufficient members present to approve minutes, since Karen had to abstain and Cynthia was absent: **TABLED.**

4. **Review feasibility, plan and schedule for bus turnaround.** – At last CC meeting, Andy Rawson reported that his brother Frank calculated costs for the amount of gravel and the site prep work for the turnaround -- (if nothing was donated) would add up to \$10,000. Karen suggested we do it in phases, such as a 5-year plan but there was discussion if that would be efficient use of funds. Virginia reminded the committee that George Szirbik wanted to be sure that the site would be properly prepped before donating gravel. Virginia suggested we ask the Town to raise and appropriate the money by warrant article. Virginia will ask Pat Smith if he can give an estimate of his labor in excavation and hauling/dumping the gravel (25 large truckloads). We will ask Cynthia to also get an estimate from Cameron's and ask Andy for something in writing. There was discussion also to suggest School Board ask for the warrant article, since the school system would be primary beneficiary. Also potentially ask the Town Rec Dept to get involved in trying to raise the money for it.
5. **Review project donor list and how to thank businesses** – Virginia suggested that the press release announcing the closing can include a list of all business donors, since there were several businesses that were not sponsors, including Cheney Co. And it was suggested that we ask MMRG for a celebratory party at the time of the closing of the Casey Rd easement – for the purposes of publicity and good will from the town.
6. **Review Liberty Circle landowners and open space interests** – nothing new to report
7. **Other Business** – none
8. **Public comment** – none
9. **Next meeting date is Wednesday, June 19 at 5:30 pm**

Wayne moved to adjourn, Karen seconded, all in favor. **Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Virginia