

Notes from the Milton CC Casey Road Land Protection Sub-committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 19, 2017 at 6 pm at the Milton Fire House (reserved by Andy)

Present: Cynthia Wyatt, Karen Golab, Wayne Sylvester, Selectman Andy Rawson and Virginia Long

Guests: Justin Bellen and Zach from Milton Fire and Rescue

Approx. 6:10 pm start meeting

Fire Dept guests were present to volunteer with removing structures from the property, so we began our discussion on that topic (and forgot to approve minutes). Wayne suggested that tearing down the 2 buildings could be a possible Scout project, and Scout organization would have liability insurance to cover it. Justin said it could be an official Fire Dept job (other volunteers are willing to help) and their liability would cover it. Also, the Fire Dept can burn all non-metal and pressure-treated materials, making the cost of disposal much cheaper. Andy, Justin, Wayne and Zach agreed to meet at 8 am on Sunday morning to check out the buildings and Wayne will send a brief report to Dana after the walk. Virginia will forward the trail map and will put them in contact with Charlie Ek in case he can join them to show them around. Virginia will also check with Patti Connuaughton-Burns about a 3rd structure she reported seeing on the property.

The next topic of discussion was the 11.24 acre abutting property, which still has individual landowner interests in the easement. Karen commented that the town made an error in accepting the ownership of the property due to default in back taxes WITHOUT simultaneously getting these interests taken off the deed. If property owners are not willing to release interest, they will be notified that they will owe property tax on their part of the parcel. Andy said that this item is on the agenda for town attorney to work on and that he will work on finding out which individuals were already contacted (by Atty Sessler) and if or which interests were released. Cynthia suggested that when she and Steve go talk to the new Town Atty about the Lyman Brook easement violations and restoration process, that they can also inquire about pursuing the release of these interests, but would need copies of the deeds of the landowners involved. Andy agreed this is a good idea and said he will let Heather know that Cynthia and Steve are contacting Atty Mitchell. And he will ask Kathy to pull the deeds.

The next topic was the abutting defunct sub-division, which MMRG would like to include in the project (as well as the other property already protected by conservation easement). Virginia asked if the BOD would support the Town donating an easement on the defunct sub-division to MMRG. Andy said he would but wasn't sure about the others. Possible objections would be loss of potential revenue (by auction) and who pays for costs to include it. Virginia commented that to include it now would be much cheaper because it could be combined with the other project. Andy said the Committee should request

to meet with the BOS as soon as possible (October 2), to educate them about it. Cynthia mentioned that the costs of services to new residents is higher than the property taxes that would be raised.

The Committee next discussed the upcoming presentation to the Milton School Board about educational potential of the Casey Rd property. Virginia agreed to collect photos to show and maps and to outline some to discuss. Justin informed the Committee that when he was a Middle School student, he was part of Tin Mountain Conservations Center's 'Forest for the Future' program in which students went out on the land once per week to learn things like soil sampling, Tree ID, orienteering, weather, etc. Justin said he would be willing to attend the School Board meeting to talk about the benefits of that type of educational program. Furthermore, he said he would be interested in serving on this sub-committee.

The Committee adjourned at approx. 7:45 pm.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Virginia