

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

**Monday, February 14, 2018** at 5:30 pm at the Emma Ramsey Center

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

**5:32 pm Karen called meeting to order**

**Minutes approval:**

Minutes of 12/11/2017 meeting: Cynthia moved to approve, Wayne 2nded, all approved

**Karen reviewed deliberative session discussion of warrant article on retaining for public use the 5.5-acre (merged subdivision) abutting parcel:**

"Went well". She picked up on the idea of a petition warrant article regarding hunting on the property, mentioned by Chris Jacobs at the session. Thereupon followed much discussion whether we should recommend to the BOS to allow or prohibit hunting on the Casey Rd property. Andy suggested we wait to make our recommendations until after the March 13 elections. **Andy said he will look into if hunting is allowed on other town properties and the question of proximity of homes and roads.** Cynthia reminded us that Barry Carr from NHF&G thought that the parcel is too closely surrounded by homes for hunting to be safe, although bow hunting could be allowed. Virginia and Karen have received feedback from individuals both for and against hunting on the parcel. There is also the question of mountain biking being allowed or not, again up to the BOS (they will listen to the sub-committee's recommendations on both questions, could also have a public hearing). The discussion came to no conclusion and was tabled to the next meeting, at which point we will try to formulate a recommendation to the BOS.

**Publicity:**

Virginia drafted a press release about the warrant article and previous trail party, including language that clarified that hunting is up to a decision of the BOS, not to be prohibited by the easement. Andy argued in favor of this in order to not alienate hunters from voting for the warrant article. The article was generally approved.

**Update on Liberty Circle 11-acre conservation parcel:**

We discussed how/if to proceed with the town owned conservation land in which Liberty Circle landowners own interest (1/12 each). Karen and Cynthia think it would be 'cleaner' to have the town own all the interest. Andy agreed that it is the town's responsibility and not appropriate use of conservation funds. Virginia reminded us that MMRG now says that this easement does not need to be part of the project for MMRG to accept the project. In fact, it might be negatively viewed by the organization, even if the landowners transfer their interests to the Town, because of the additional # of abutters to deal with. Cynthia reminded us that, according to the easement, landowners are responsible for paying towards the cost of monitoring and upkeep of signs. Andy mentioned liability of landowners if

they keep their interest. Andy said he will get the tax cards pulled to see if there is a line item in which landowners are charged for the extra amenity of owning 1/12th interest in the 11-acre conservation property. If not, then property assessment needs to include that in the future. Cynthia said she will draft a letter to landowners (Virginia will supply draft of previous letter). Wayne suggested that we ask landowners to come to a meeting to discuss it with us.

**School Involvement:** Virginia reported no new developments since last December when Charlie Ek met with teachers and administrators to talk about possible uses of the property. Of concern is parking and turn-around space, port-a-potties (school knows they are responsible for latter), and better marking of the trails. Also extension of the trail system to include beaver pond and a loop. Virginia suggested that volunteer labor could probably take down some trees as needed for parking. Andy said he uses a backhoe and could dig up stumps if the equipment were made available to him. Cynthia offered to contact John Catwick to see if he can lend a backhoe. Andy also said he could put together a plan for parking turnaround, in collaboration with committee: outline size, location, materials and labor needed. Virginia said she would ask George Szirbik if he would donate gravel from his pit. Andy will ask town planner Bruce Woodruff about the legalities of using the Class VI road for turnaround, or removing the road from public use.

#### **Trails and Maps:**

It was suggested that we try to find an Eagle Scout to do a project to extend the trails. Wayne said that none of the boys in his troop are ready for a project. Karen added we need to name the trails and that could be part of the project. Virginia said she would contact Victor Piekarski about the eagle scouts that helped with their trails. Consensus was that we need a committee to be in charge of this task, with a committee chair willing to take charge. Andy said he might know someone who would be willing to chair a committee on trails and would attempt to contact them. He will also try to find out about what is required to form a new official committee. Wayne and Karen are willing to serve on the committee, but not chair it Virginia reminded us that we have a list of a few volunteers willing to serve who signed up at the Trail Party. Andy said that Dana Crossley can be the contact person for any new volunteers (eg, in response to the newspaper article). Wayne suggested that Charlie Ek be asked to rough out the new trails, lay them out on a map for committee to approve and then mark trees to cut, with new trails being an extension to beaver pond, a loop connecting two dead end branches, any other attractive spots on the parcel. Virginia will contact Charlie. Karen will contact Justin about final structure cleanup.

**Next meeting: 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 21**

**7:22 pm Virginia moved to adjourn, Wayne 2nded; all approved.**

**Respectfully submitted by Virginia**

