

Open Space Preservation Committee Town of Newington November 15,2001

Members Present: Marlon Frink, Gail Pare, Jack O'Reilly, Sandy Hislop, Dorothy Watson, Susie Carmichael, Cosmas Iocovozzi.

Also Present: Dave Murphy from Office of State Planning, Planner Tom Morgan.

Meeting was opened at 7 pm

Minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes of meeting held 10-4-01, were amended to show that Susie Carmichael was present. Also, that Gail Pare had agreed to contact Phil Auger but not to schedule a work session. Minutes as amended were accepted on a motion by Gail Pare, seconded by Sandy Hislop.

Gail Pare reported on the status of her contact with Phil Auger - Mr Auger's opinion is that only one meeting (with him) should be necessary. Gail stated that she would like an open , conceptual meeting to determine what the program is all about and then consult legal counsel about any legal ramifications of preserving open space.

New Hampshire Coastal Program

Dave Murphy of the Office of State Planning, spoke about the available grants, distributed copies of a Project Eligibility Guide and offered the following information:

Applications are due NLT 1/26/01 at 4:30 pm. Submission to the Portsmouth office, 152 Court St, is acceptable. Public Hearings are required prior to submitting application. Any land acquired must be within the boundaries of Coastal Zone. Land must have clear title (no encumbrances). The project must not start until July 1 and end June 30 of the following year - in some cases, an extension can be granted.

Property must have opinion of fair market value from a realtor or appraiser Acquisition cannot cost more than appraised value. If acquiring only an easement, get the value of just the easement area.

Funds from other grants, other than Federal, can be combined for required matching funds. Federal Funds cannot be used for matching funds. Grants must have, at least, 50% matching funds and maximum grant is \$50,000.

Marlon Frink asked about the number of applicants receiving grants. Mr Murphy stated that approximately 3/4 are awarded grants.

Discussed restrictions of use ie: public access or various recreational uses. Mr Murphy stated that all depends on the purpose for acquisition however, generally if any one person is allowed everyone should be allowed (cannot be restricted to residents only if acquired with Federal Funds).Re: recreation use - a specific use can be documented.

Mr Murphy cautioned that all criteria of application must be completed. However, the application does not have to be on form provided but can be in any form.

Committee thanked Mr Murphy for his time and he left the meeting.

Committee proceeded to discuss future plans and possible schedule of meetings including the need to be ready for the Budget Committee and Town Meeting.

Gail Pare agreed to get a date for a meeting with Phil Auger and suggested that a second presenter be invited - possibly an attorney.

Tom Morgan advised that it was a little late for application to the Coastal Zone grant project for this year - but will be prepared for next year. Also, that Barbara Hill is pursuing a State grant for restoration of the old Railroad Station house on Bloody Point.

Gail Pare distributed copies of a document from a previous Nature Conservancy workshop and suggested that the members read and possibly formulate questions for Mr Auger.

In conclusion it was agreed that a meeting would be scheduled to Phil Auger's convenience, and an attorney will also be invited. All property owners will be notified and follow-up with calls to those property owners that the Committee particularly want to have in attendance.

Briefly discussed the list of priority parcels and agreed that a meeting, prior to the public meeting, may be needed to go over the project to date. Tom Morgan will keep everyone notified.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm on a motion by Jack O'Reilly, seconded by Cosmas Iocovozzi.

Pat Main
Secretary