



Town of Lyme

Open Space Commission

Open Space Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2018

In attendance: Parker Lord, Paul Armond, Bob Cope, Wendolyn Hill, Anthony Irving, George Lombardino, and Lucius Stark

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. Business items discussed included:

1. Parker Lord was nominated and unanimously approved as chairman of the Open Space Commission.
2. Johnston Property: The State has pledged 60% of the purchase price for the 250-acre Johnston Property. This amount, at the upper range of expectations, will retain \$100K in the Open Space Fund post-acquisition. Various names for the tract were suggested.
3. Jewett Property: The Jewett family agreed to donate to the Town a small property and cemetery near the Jewett Preserve's entrance, including an easement permitting vehicle access and parking. Residents will vote on accepting the parcel at the next town meeting.
4. Local funding for open space protection: The Town added its support to a proposal before the Legislature allowing municipalities to fund land conservation and stewardship through a conveyance fee of up to 1% on real estate sales above \$150K. With this program, which at the local level would require residents' approval, towns facing state budget cuts and opposition to higher property taxes could build sustainable revenue streams to protect open space.
5. Managing open space: Parker questioned whether the OSC, rather than just identifying land for conservation, might also consider how to manage open space for environmental benefits. Various initiatives, such as selective logging to encourage habitat diversity and forest succession, could enhance our woodlands' health at little or no cost to the Town.
6. A motion was made by Paul Armond, seconded by Anthony Irving and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.