

## Minutes of the Open Space Committee for March 20, 2017

The Open Space Committee convened a public meeting at 4:04, on March 20, 2017 in the Judge Welsh Meeting Room in Provincetown Town Hall

Members present: Celine Gandolfo, Susan Avellar, Judy Cicero, Rebecca Matarazzi (by phone for second half of the meeting), Susan Cook (after being appointed and sworn in, as indicated in the minutes), and Dennis Minsky

Also present: Mark Robinson, Executive Director of The Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. and Josee Young, Finance Director for the Town of Provincetown

### The following business was discussed and transacted:

-Minsky moved, and Cicero seconded, to appoint Susan Cook as a regular member of the Open Space Committee.

The motion was approved, 4-0-0.

-Minsky read the 2016 Open Space Report which is included in the Annual Town Meeting Report for the upcoming annual Town Meeting

-Minsky presented a table summarizing all the Open Space properties owned by the Town of Provincetown, most acquired with Land Bank funds

-Minsky introduced to new members Mark Robinson, Executive Director of The Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc., who has served and continues to serve as a consultant to the Open Space Committee. Robinson explained his role in providing outreach, negotiation, and grant-writing services to the Town on a contracted basis.

-Minsky moved, and Cicero seconded, to approve the payment of a \$1,200 invoice for a previously approved contract dated September 30, 2015, to The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. for services rendered.

The motion was approved, 4-0-0

-Minsky presented an October 1, 2016 letter from the Open Space Committee that was addressed to ten East End property owners expressing interest in their land for conservation purposes. No further discussion ensued concerning these properties.

-Minsky reported that it was his impression that the Open Space Committee had over \$1.8 million in Land Bank funds available for land conservation and, of that amount, just under \$16,000 in administrative funds for activities associated with land conservation (other than actual purchases).

-Josee Young, Finance Director for the Town of Provincetown, presented information on Land Bank finances. Each fiscal year the Land Bank accrues approximately \$720,000 in revenues (\$360,000 in each tax phase). There is currently \$1.867 million (fund balance) + \$23,900 (current year activity) or approximately \$2 million in Land Bank funds available for fiscal year 2017. \$15,600 of that amount is available for pre-acquisition costs; this money is part of the Land Bank funds, not the General Fund. (There is also \$196,000 in CPA funds available for Open Space.)

At this point in the meeting Rebecca Matarazzi joined by telephone and Susan Cook left to see the Town Clerk, was sworn in, and returned as a voting member.

-Mark Robinson presented a new contract for \$2,400 for ongoing work with Provincetown landowners. Minsky moved, and Gandolfo seconded, to approve the contract. Gandolfo called it a “good investment.” Matarazzi cautioned that all negotiations should go through the committee.

The motion was approved, 6-0-0

-Matarazzi’s template for new acquisitions was distributed and reviewed.

-Minsky presented the basic points of a Request for Proposals for the design and maintenance of the Brown Street Conservation Area and the Shank Painter Uplands Nature Area and they were reviewed. These included following precisely the existing management plans for those areas, botanical surveys, prioritizing invasive species for removal, proposal of native species for planting, and overall maintenance schedules and plans, with a component for involving volunteers. Minsky will work with Town Planner Gloria McPherson to finalize the RFPs and send them out to prospective companies.

-Minsky reported that to date, to his knowledge, there had not been any donations to the Conservation Tree Gift Fund that was established years ago, but some may be forthcoming. He noted that this fund was different from the gift fund proposed in the upcoming Town Meeting Tree Bylaw.

-Minsky presented a letter that he wrote to the Board of Selectman expressing doubts and concerns about the proposed siting of a new police station at the corner of Shank Painter Road and Route 6. These concerns were primarily centered on the Greenway. He stressed that he wrote the letter as a private citizen and no official response was made by either the Open Space Committee or the Conservation Commission, due to a lack of information at the time of their respective meetings.

-Minsky moved, and Gandolfo seconded, to go into Executive Session, pursuant to MGL c30A Section 21 (a) Clause 3, for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to land acquisition if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position, and to reconvene in Open Session thereafter.

The vote was as follows: Matarazzi aye, Gandolfo aye, Cook aye, Avellar aye, Minsky aye      The motion was approved, 5-0-0

The committee moved into Executive Session, and when finished, moved to go out of Executive Session into Open Session, at which time, 5:30, there was a motion to adjourn.

Respectively submitted

Dennis Minsky, chair