

Land Acquisition Fund Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2013

Attendees:

Andrea O'Connor
Marge Josephson
Neil Volkmar
Colette Shulman
Fran Frattini
Jerry Siegel

Absent:

Al Kenney

Chairman Andrea O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting of January 16, 2013: Motion made by Neil Volkmar, seconded by Marge to accept the minutes subject to correct spelling of names. All voted in favor.

Introduction of new Board clerk: Andrea O'Connor announced that Tabitha Fazzone had been appointed by the Board of Selectmen as new clerk to the LAFAB. Tabitha is away and will begin her work for the Board at its next meeting.

Election of chairman: The Board discussed the problem of conflict when a Board member or officer represented another Town body. This arose in the context of the annual budget making process. As Chair, Andrea had presented the LAFAB's budget proposal and the rationale for requesting a contribution to the LAF through the budget. As a Selectmen, however, in light of the totality of budget requests, Andrea found it impossible to continue to support this request as budget discussions proceeded. She thanked the Board members for their letter in the press further clarifying the LAFAB's thinking. Neil Volkmar moved to retain Andrea as Chair, seconded by Marge, and all voted in favor.

Report on budget requests for 2013-2014: Andrea O'Connor discussed the outcome of budget deliberations and the reduction in the LAFAB operating budget due to the anticipated frequency of meetings. She indicated that the full contribution to the Northwest Conservation District remained intact.

Comments on the POCD: LAFAB members have not received a copy of the final POCD. Andrea O'Connor indicated that the full open space plan submitted by this Board was included in the POCD, but not the map indicating the general locations of desirable open space. Andrea will follow up on this with the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Report on visit to Happy Acres: Andrea O'Connor reported on her recent visit with Tony Hapanowich at Happy Acres Farm. She expressed a desire to have members of the LAFAB and the Conservation Commission, along with the Naromi Land Trust, work together to create a foundation or other structure for the future management of the farm. Board members

commented that such a foundation might also be useful with other farms in town. Andrea indicated her desire to bring this concept to the Board of Selectmen for their endorsement. There was a consensus on proceeding.

Strategies to convert temporarily protected open space to permanently protected open space via conservation easements: There was a general discussion of approaches to accomplishing this goal, but no action plan was developed at this time. The discussion included the concept of annuities as a form of payment for a conservation easement, the tax advantages that might be available to people who grant such easements, and the concerns land owners might have concerning the needs of their future generations.

Other business: Colette Shulman described a project being proposed by the Conservation Commission that would remove invasive species from Munch Meadow. This would be a demonstration project of the UConn Agricultural extension.

Public participation: None.

Neil Volkmar moved and Jerry Siegel seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea O'Connor
Chair