

**Draft: Minutes for Open Space Committee (OSC) Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010, 7:30 p. m.,  
Staff Conference Room, Essex Elementary School**

Present: Julie Scofield, Lysa Leland, Tammy Gardner, Maria Burnham

**IT WAS MOVED BY LYSA, SECONDED BY TAMMY AND VOTED  
TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUG. 10, 2010 MEETING.**

I. Old business

A. Sally Soucy Nature Trail at Centennial Grove

1. Julie went over the latest signs to arrive.
2. We will meet at 8 a. m. on 9-30-2010 to put the signs up & check the trail.

B. Trails brochure

1. Lysa will edit the copy as it stands thus far.
2. Recommended we use line drawings; Erica Sonder would be a good choice to do that.
3. The Conomo Pt. Road walking path should be added to the brochure.
  - a. The trail was constructed by Daphne Borden and is mentioned in the 2003 Town Report.
  - b. Lysa will check (with Daphne) to see if any of that trail is on public land.
4. Julie will call Greenbelt for a date to walk the Centennial Grove trail using their GPS.
5. Julie will touch base with the Essex County Trail Association (ECTA).

C. Julie distributed the composite "Friends of Open Space" list and the committee made suggestions, additions and corrections.

II. New Business

A. New Centennial Grove Committee.

1. Leslie will be the Open Space Committee representative.
2. That committee has not yet met but has begun to make organizational noises.

B. Mike Dyer approached this committee about the Long Term Planning Committee (LTPC) Survey.

1. He asked for the Open Space Committee mission statement. \*
2. He indicated that the LTPC would like to meet with the OSC.

C. Maria reported on the Town Building Committee meeting held at the Library on Sept. 21.

1. The Building Committee's conclusion is to locate a new police station on the cemetery lot on John Wise Avenue.
  - a. It is town-owned and their charge excluded non-town parcels from consideration.
  - b. This is a sensitive location, however.
    - a. An historic early section of Chebacco/Essex
    - b. The neighborhood characteristics will disappear; no one wants to live in a commercial area.
    - c. Businesses will replace housing and sprawl into unprotected John Wise Avenue.
2. The OSC's sense is that other locations have not been seriously considered, and should be.

3. Another informational meeting of the Town Building Committee will be held on Oct. 25.

4. The next Town Meeting is Monday, Nov. 15.

D. Julie will write an agenda for our next meeting, based on old and new business items outlined above.

E. Julie distributed copies of *Boston Globe* article (8-12-10) about losing open space all over the Commonwealth as well as isolated success stories in well organized communities.

*\*The Essex Open Space Committee's mission is to preserve the rich variety of landscapes in our community that have significant scenic, historic, and/or ecological value, for passive public use, recreational enjoyment, and for natural undisturbed wildlife habitat.*

**Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, at 7:30 p. m. in the Staff Conference Room of Essex Elementary School.**