

## Duxbury Planning Commission

### Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2015

Members present: Alan Quackenbush, Doug Weber, Brian T. Fitzgerald

Others present: Kate Wanner (Trust for Public Land), Enid Rosenblum (Vigilante Road landowner), Jason Nerenberg (Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation)

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m. by Brian Fitzgerald.

**Agenda Changes:** No changes were proposed

**Minutes:** On motion by Alan/Doug, the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

**Dowsville Headwaters Property:** Prior to the meeting, the Planning Commission conducted a site visit to look at access points to the property at the top of Ward Hill Road and the beginning of Vigilante Road. Members of the public and representatives of the Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) attended. There was discussion of options for parking and management of access at both locations, but no decisions were made by the Planning Commission.

During the meeting, discussion focused on preventing spring/summer/fall motorized vehicle access to the Dowsville Headwater (DH) lands and illegal motorized use of the private land at the end of Vigilante Road. There was general agreement among all present that the best approach is to discourage or prevent motorized vehicles from starting up Vigilante Road in the first place. The public right-of-way, a town trail, ends approximately ½ mile from Dowsville Road at the Vigilante House. There is no place in the ROW to turn around at that point, and a gate at the end of the town ROW would not likely deter riders from continuing. There is a gate where the logging road enters the DH parcel, which is regularly bypassed by ATVs and motorcycles.

Doug, although not supportive of restricting use of the ROW, recommended that if the Selectboard does restrict use of the ROW, taking a phased approach to access control. The first phase would consist of signage at the Dowsville Road/Vigilante Road intersection indicating that motorized, non-snowmobile use of Vigilante Road is prohibited. This would require action by the Duxbury Selectboard before it could be implemented. Motorized use would still be allowed for property owners along Vigilante Road, including the owner of the DH lands, since those lands are connected to the town ROW via a right-of-way. Snowmobile and non-motorized use would continue. If signage does not work, construction of a gate at the bridge near the beginning of Vigilante Road would be the next step. This approach will be developed further and presented to the Duxbury Selectboard for consideration.

There was also discussion of parking at Dowsville Road. The areas on both sides of the road where people now park are on private land, so some type of easement or agreement with those landowners would be necessary before any formal parking could be established. Further discussion of this issue is needed.

**Town Forest:** Brian reported that he had briefed the Selectboard on Monday regarding the legislature's requirement that Duxbury and the State enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding future use of the property. John Murphy volunteered to participate in discussions with FPR to develop the MOU. Alan pointed out that the conservation easement to be held by the Duxbury Land Trust will specify activities that are allowed or not allowed. The importance of resolving the Act 250 permit issue on the Father Logue parcel was noted. Brian will contact Mike Fraysier at FPR and try to get the MOU process moving.

**Flood Resilience Projects:** Brian reported that the multi-town Winooski River project did not receive funding. A final decision on the Mad River Valley stormwater management project is still pending.

**Municipal Planning Grant:** The town will be submitting an application for a municipal planning grant to support hiring a consultant to work on zoning ordinance changes to bring it into conformance with the new town plan. The call for proposals should be issued soon. Brian will follow up on this with Erica.

**Other Business:** No other business was discussed.

**Next Meeting:** July 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the town garage meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes by B.T. Fitzgerald