



Town of Casco

Open Space Commission Minutes for Monday, December 2, 2024

Called to Order at 6:08 PM

Regular Meeting

Attending: Sam Brown, Eric Dibner, Jim Arsham, Jenn Lewis,
Amy Brown, Bob Learnard, Bill Phelps

Guests: Matt Market, Sarah Turner

1. Meeting Agenda: Approved.

New Business:

2. Update from Loon Echo Land Trust-Matt Market

(a) After LELT got the appraisal on the Owl Pond property, Matt Hancock requested another appraisal to be obtained at his expense. This is expected to take place in the Spring. Market stated there was no one else bidding on this property and he was not concerned about the property status.

(b) Matt discussed the new pathway at the Mayberry Hill Preserve that will be built in Spring 2025, with the off-street parking area, new Kiosk and additional which are already in place. This should be replicated in other areas.

(c) Rolf Hill- Good news on this property. The Trail Map has been approved. The off-street parking area is already installed. This will be plowed in winter and it's expected the new State Bond that was just passed will be providing funding for these items. A priority is to start the Trailhead away from the former Chute property. Matt suggested we (OSC) send a letter of support to the Select Board.

(c) Casco Bay Estuary Program. This program is a federal program in Maine and in 19 other states. Its purpose is to promote the health of estuaries and was included in the Infrastructure Act of 2023. Sebago Lake is drinking water for more than 1/16th of Maine residents and the reason for this program in Maine. Loon Echo has secured a \$50,000 grant in support of our Open Space Plan.

4. Update from Sarah Turner- Community Action Grants

Sarah said most of the items she wanted to discuss about water quality have been covered under the general discussion with Matt Markot -see above. She did suggest that we need to have a more specific way to have all the information from various water quality groups that have annual data on the several water bodies, rivers and streams in Casco and it should be formalized with the Select Board. We might also want to include data on Native Plants and area geology. Maine Resilience Partners and Community Action Grants have money available, possibly \$50,000-\$75,000, which could fund several of these projects.

3. Open Space Commission Playbook was discussed and several pages we edited. It was decided to finish the meeting at the beginning of PRIORITY #2.
4. Other Discussions:
 - a. Community Engagement activities. Walking the Rolf Property is one suggestion for early Spring.
 - b. We want to invite Hancock Lumber Karyn Knight and Carolyn Drew from the Crooked River Snowmobile Club, to attend a meeting in the future.
5. Next meeting date was decided to be Thursday, December 19th, 2024 6:00 PM since our regular third Monday was co-opted by the Planning Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM

Additional Notes from the meeting are attached.



Town of Casco
Open Space Commission Meeting Agenda
Monday, December 2, 2024, 6:00 PM
Casco Community Center

ADDITIONAL NOTES IN RED

1. Review and approval of the meeting agenda -Approved.
2. Public Participation for non-Agenda items
3. Welcome Guests
 - a. Sarah Turner
 - b. Matt Markot
4. Attending:
 - a. Sam Brown, Eric Dibner, Jennifer Lewis, Jim Arsham
 - b. Guests: Matt Markot, Sarah Turner, Bill Phelps, Bob Learnard, Amy Brown.

Business

5. Update from loon Echo
 - a. Matt Markot
 - a. OWL POND PRESERVATION WORK
 - i. Second appraisal underway
 - b. MAYBERRY HILL ALL ACCESS TRAIL
 - i. Spring BUILD OUT
 - c. ROLFE PROPERTY TRAIL DEVELOPMENT
 - i. Trail Plan Approved
 - ii. Need: letter of Support for Trails Bond funding
 - d. CASCO BAY ESTUARIES GRANT FUNDING
 - i. \$50,000 available to Casco for Open Space
 - a. Planning
 - b. Physical structures
 - c. Awareness/Education
 - ii. Deliverables:
 - a. SELECT BOARD SUPPORT
 - b. Community Workshop
 - c. Updated Open Space Plan
 - iii. To Workshop at next meeting.
6. Community Action Grants
 - a. Sarah Turner
 - b. Re-cap Maine Design Work
 - c. MAINECAN

- i. Resiliency Grant Extension - Due December 17

7. REVIEWING THE **OPEN SPACE PLAYBOOK**

- a. Community Engagement Activities
 - a. Walking the Rolfe Property

8. Invites: - to attend future meeting.

- a. Hancock Lumber
 - i. Karyn Knight
- b. Crooked river Snowmobile Club
 - i. Carolyn Drew

9. Consideration of Fiscal 2025/26 Budget Requests

10. TODO:

- a. Community Engagement Activities - Site Walks:
 - i. Owl Pond 2.0
 - ii. Mayberry Hill
 - iii. Rolfe Property
- b. Meeting with Town Manager Tony Ward
 - i. Understanding of Open Space Existing and Future Funding

Upcoming meeting dates (subject to change)

~~Monday, December 18th~~ - Conflicts with Planning Board

New date: Thursday December 19th @ 6:00 pm

Monday, January 20th 2025 @ 6:00 pm