



Town of Duxbury Community Preservation Committee

Approved 11/10/2021

TOWN CLERK

2021 NOV 22 PM 1:18
DUXBURY, MASS.

Minutes of October 19, 2021

The Duxbury Community Preservation Committee (CPC) met on the Delorenzo Farm/0 Summer Street site on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 4:00pm.

Members Present: Holly Morris, Chair; Tag Carpenter, Kathy Cross, Kathy Palmer, and Paul McCormack

Members Absent: David Uitti, Tony Kelso

Staff Present: Joe Grady, Conservation Administrator; Nancy Rufo, Administrative Assistant; Pat Loring, volunteer

Chair, Holly Morris called the Community Preservation Committee meeting to order at 4:11pm.

Roll call vote of members present: Tag Carpenter, yes; Kathy Cross, yes; Kathy Palmer, yes; Paul McCormack, yes; and Holly Morris, yes.

SITE OVERVIEW

Joe Grady provided an overview of the site history. At least 15 years ago, Conservation was drawn to this property because of the proximity to the Historic O'Neil Farm, the presence of prime agricultural soil, and the presence of soil important to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In 2018, the Delorenzo family agreed to sell the property, and the Town purchased the land for the purpose of agriculture. This purchase granted the authority for the Town and Conservation Commission to enter into a 10-year farming agreement. A focus group was created to look at other municipal properties state-wide used for farming to learn from their successes and failures. Based on these findings, in 2020 Mr. Grady went to Town Meeting to gain funding for clearing, trash removal, and installation of an irrigation system as it was learned the most successful farms are those prepared in advance for the farmers. In August 2021, a Notice of Intent for the clearing was filed with the Conservation Commission as activities would occur within 100 feet of a wetland. The same level of regulations and scrutiny was applied to this as all other applications the Commission reviews. Order of Conditions were issued at the Conservation Commission meeting on September 7th, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued a wetlands permit as well.

Mr. Grady noted an abutter (Kate Reynolds) came forward with concerns about the project, primarily noise, pesticide and herbicide use, and vernal pools. Mr. Grady indicated there are multiple examples of vernal pools in Duxbury (Berrybrook as an example), and it is quite common for the pools to successfully exist side-by-side with responsible chemical and fertilizer use by farmers. Farmers typically don't use anything until they test the soil to see what is needed, and even then, the application is heavily regulated and the minimum quantity needed applied. Priscilla Chandler of the Agricultural Commission noted they use only exactly what is needed as the products are expensive as well.

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As for the future use of the Delorenzo Farm, Mr. Grady noted he does not have a specific crop in mind. The plan is to establish the farmland then solicit proposals from farmers. There is also a hope that a farm stand similar to Cretitnons could be established to take advantage of the frontage on Rt 53. Conservation could also establish joint efforts with the Historic O'Neil Farm. The goal is to make land available for farming before there is no land available for farming at all. Kathy Palmer suggested partnering with schools for the education component. The possibilities are truly endless. Ms. Palmer also asked if there would be walking trails which Mr. Grady indicated may be possible along the perimeter of the property.

Phillip Tuck of the Open Space Committee asked what would be done with the wood that is cleared. Mr. Grady indicated he would try to reclaim it if possible and has some contractors coming to look at the site.

Priscilla Chandler noted it is very difficult to grown in New England and wondered about the possibility of a hoop or greenhouse. Lorrie Hall of the Open Space Committee requested that any structure be placed near the street, or at least out of sight to preserve the unique viewscape of the property.

Brian Glennon of the Planning Board and Open Space Committee questioned what would be considered a successful proposal. Mr. Grady indicated they would really need to see what comes in and go from there. He does not want to limit the review of the proposals to cost only. Mr. Grady would also like to provide opportunities to new farmers as well.

The CPC members completed a walking tour of the property, noting areas to be restored to farmland as well as areas to remain undisturbed, including forest and vernal pools.

ADJOURNMENT: Kathy Palmer made a motion, seconded by Kathy Cross, to adjourn the meeting at 5:02pm. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote: Tag Carpenter, yes; Kathy Cross, yes; Paul McCormack, yes; Kathy Palmer, yes; and Holly Morris, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021