

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

SITE WALK - SPECIAL MEETING 9:00 A.M., August 20, 2020

MINUTES

1) Call to Order

Site walk of property on Merritt Valley Road for consideration of proposal for purchase of property for Andover Open Space by the Town of Andover.

At 9:05 a.m. Chairperson Jed Larson called the meeting to order.

2) Roll Call

Present: Jed Larson, Chairperson, Anne Petersen Crème, Vice Chairperson, Scott Person, Commission member Susan England, Alternate member of the Commission seated for Leigh Ann Hutchinson.

Absent: Leigh Ann Hutchinson, Commission member.

Also Present: Jim Hallisey, Zoning Agent, Jim Celio, realtor representing the owner of the property who left at 0840, and Hank Gruener, Conservation Commission member. Eric Anderson, Town Administrator, joined at 0917.

Following a walk of the property, a discussion was held concerning the appropriateness of the purchase of this property for open space within the Town of Andover. Hank Gruener discussed how while this property is a beautiful piece of property, it is not within one of the three open space corridors the town has identified for purchase of open space property. Therefore, purchase of the property by the town for open space would not be consistent with Chapter 8 of the Plan of Conservation and Development, protecting natural resources. Scott Person discussed that the unique opportunity provided by this property is that it abutted existing town owned property providing good opportunity for expanding trails in the existing town property. The property was also directly behind Andover Elementary School and in close proximity to the East Coast Greenway Rail Trail. These factors make acquisition of this property consistent with open space goals of the town.

Following the discussion, it was decided that purchase of the property for open space would be discussed at the next Conservation Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday August 25th. If the Conservation Commission recommended purchase of the property for open space, the Planning and Zoning Commission would forward a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen consistent with an 8-24 recommendation per the motion voted on and approved at the previous PZC meeting on 17 August. If the Conservation Commission did not recommend purchase of the property for open space, the property would be further discussed at the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to determine future course of action.

Adjournment

On a motion by Anne Crème, and seconded by Scott Person, the meeting was adjourned on a vote of 4-0-0 at 1044.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jed Larson, Chairman Planning and Zoning Commission