

Minutes, Plympton Open Space meeting, June 28, 2016

Attending: Vicki Alberti and Linda Leddy, Co- Chairs, Jane Schulze, Ted Taranto, CJ Quinn, Alan Wheelock, Absent: Frank Perfetuo

The meeting was called to order by Vicki Alberti at 7:10 pm.

The purpose of this meeting was to present to the public the Open Space Committee's draft Goals and Objectives for Plympton's updated Open Space Plan, which is now being developed. The meeting notice had appeared in the local newspaper as both a legal ad and a story, online on the town website, via various special email lists, such as to Dennett parents, etc and been sent to each of the Chairs of Plympton's departments and committees. About 25 people attended.

Emilie Wetzel, from the AmeriCorps community program at Wildlands Trust, opened the meeting by presenting the results of the survey of town residents which was carried out this past winter. Residents were asked to respond and rank their answers to 14 questions, ranging from their characterizations of the town, their most frequent recreational activities in town and their hopes for Plympton's future. There was also a section for open-ended comments. The survey built on a similar survey that had been conducted in 2009 for the development of the Plan at that time. About 150 surveys were submitted.

The top three results from the Survey are 1) 89% indicated that it is important to preserve open space for various purposes, 2)82 % indicated that it is extremely important to preserve Plympton's rural character and 3) 77% indicated the importance protecting Plympton's drinking water. The results for all questions, as well as a summary of the open- ended comments, will be included in the Open Space Plan.

Vicki Alberti and Linda Leddy then presented the Goals and Objectives that the Open Space Committee has drafted. ( see attached). Questions and comments from the audience were taken during each presentation. There were questions regarding the definition and operations of water districts, septic rules, how to help farms, habitat designations, scenic roads, land for senior/affordable housing and public access. Each was answered and discussed at the meeting and will be included in the final text of the Plan. There was general agreement that the goals and objectives were clear, diverse and appropriate.

The meeting was closed at 8:35 pm.