

# August 18, 2004

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

**Present:** Patti Doran, Susan Payne, Chick Treadway, Dan Sherr, Colleen Weston, Diane Williams

**Guests:** Dick Sears First Selectman

Chairman Dan Sherr called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

The Chairman had the following items on his agenda for tonight's meeting:

Approval of the minutes of the July 21, 2004 meeting

Proof of the "white paper"

Strategies for the October 4th Town Meeting

Mr. Sherr began by praising the combined efforts of members Susan Payne and Colleen Weston for their work creating the "edited version of the white paper" for the Town Newsletter. The draft was emailed to members of the Open Space Committee and Bill Fairbairn, Housing Committee member for comment. Members took time during the meeting to make a few changes to the draft. Ms. Weston will do a final edit and then email it to members for final comment. The "white paper" will be emailed to Dick Sears by September 1st.

Dan Sherr asked Dick Sears about the format for the October 4th Town Meeting, what materials were needed for the 5 minute presentation? First Selectman Sears agreed with Dan's suggestion of using both visual and audio statements, what ever entices the public to attend the upcoming forums.

The four main bullets taken from the "white paper" were:

Open Space Key to Preserving Washington's Rural Character

Over-Development Risk Is Real

Leading the Way - The 2003 Town Plan of Conservation and Development

Balancing act - Conservation with Development

These bullets will be the basis for the October 4th presentation. Susan Payne added that she felt it was important to include the definition of Open Space as stated in the 2003 Plan of Conservation & Development, The Natural Resource Inventory Report and The Open Space Steering Committee Report which is:

**Land permanently preserved for agriculture, forestry, recreation, wildlife habitat, natural resources conservation, maintenance of community character or as undeveloped land.**

Mr. Sears stated that he wants the Town's September newsletter to draw people into dialogue. He wants it to be a provocative invitation to getting information, get the public inside the issues. Members discussed adding questions, a quiz or even pictures to the "white paper".

Farming became the next topic of discussion; with the news of the Potter Farm up for sale members

discussed the impact on Washington if the land the Potter's use is no longer farmed. The reality of what will happen if this land is no longer in 490 protection? Mr. Sears stated that the Gunn Museum will be doing an upcoming exhibit on the Grange and Farming. He feels that Washington can do a better at helping support farming, become a farm friendly town.

Pam Osborne, Secretary suggested postponing approval of the minutes for the July meeting. Ms. Osborne wanted to correct printing errors and distribute the minutes to members.

Dick Sears encouraged members to attend and vote at the Special Town Meeting on September 2nd on the Lake Waramaug Agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Open Space Committee is September 15, 2004 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,  
Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary