

Rowe Open Space Plan Committee
October 11, 2019
1:00 P.M.
Rowe Town Hall – Meeting Room 1

Present: Jessica Albrecht, Paul McLatchy III, Jennifer Morse, Laurie Pike
Absent: Sean Loomis
Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: Ms. Morse called the meeting to order at 1:00, a quorum of the committee present.

General Discussion: Ms. Pike read off a list of the maps that are needed for an Open Space Plan (OSP) to be accepted by the state, many of which were questionable as to whether the town even had these maps. She said she spoke with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), who referred her to several other resources, but were not able to help her themselves. It is unknown whether FRCOG helps towns write these plans, or if they only help with updates and revisions.

Members discussed whether this planning process is worth it. Amherst's draft OSP is 133 pages long. Other towns have plans that are 300+ pages long- even small towns like Rowe. A question was raised about what types of grants this will allow the town to apply for. The only one that is known at this time is the PARC grant, but there are undoubtedly others.

Another possibility to help finance similar projects would be through the Community Preservation Act (CPA) program. This would allow the town to assess a surcharge on a person's taxes to fund areas such as outdoor space, historic preservation, and affordable housing. This may be easier, as the planning documents are far smaller (Boston, for example, has a 13-page plan).

Tasks: Ms. Morse said she would speak with the Open Space Committees in Shelburne and Ashfield and see whether or not they thought it was worth it to pursue their plans. Ms. Pike will reach out to FRCOG again- perhaps Peggy Sloan in their Planning Department might have more information. Mr. McLatchy will reach out to Whately, which is a CPA town and see whether they've had success with their program and the logistics behind its adoption.

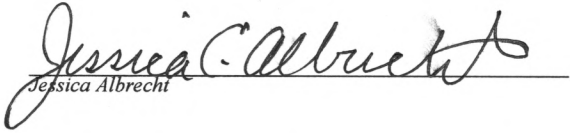
Officers: Though no vote was taken, members seemed to be in agreement that electing a chair was not necessary, and Mr. McLatchy said he would take minutes.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Friday, November 1st at 1:00 P.M.

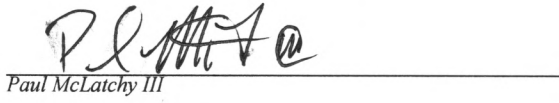
Adjourn: A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy, seconded by Ms. Pike, and passed 4-0-0 to adjourn at 1:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III

Approved on: November 8, 2019

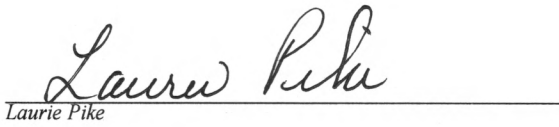


Jessica Albrecht



Paul McLatchy III

Jennifer Morse



Laurie Pike