

Sabin's Pasture Working Group Meeting Notes

11/12/07 5:30-7:00

Trust for Public Land, 3 Shipman Place

Attendees: Leigh Seddon, Bill Kaplan, Roy Schiff, Dave Keller, Jennifer Hollar, Mary Hooper, Nancy Sherman, Todd Bailey, Jim Libby, John Waldo, Katherine Cooper, Rodger Krussman, Neal Rodar, and Jennifer Knauer

Purpose and Composition of the Working Group

- Members were selected by TPL in order to provide broad representation of the community.
- TPL convened this group in order to facilitate community input into TPL's decision-making process within the timeframe of the contract to purchase the land.
- Each member of the group is wearing at least two hats. The role of the Working Group members is to represent the community and not just be an advocate for the particular council/board/task force/non-profit you represent.
- The group discussed seeking representative of additional stakeholder groups that are not represented.
- **Alternates:** Working Group members may designate an alternate to attend meetings in his/her place. Members who are not able to attend a meeting should e-mail the group with the name of the alternate attending in his/her place ahead of time. Email names and contact info of alternates to Sarah Erb who will maintain the list.
- Members agreed to have their names and contact information printed in the paper as members of the Sabin's Pasture Working Group, in order to facilitate public input. Members of the public should feel free to call or email members with questions and comments.

Meeting Process & Notes

- The Trust for Public Land will maintain notes of the working group's progress. Notes will be sent to the City for posting on the City's website one week after meetings.
- The public is welcome to attend meetings, but there will not be a specific "public comment" portion of the agenda. The meeting schedule will be posted on the City's website.

TPL's Land Acquisition Agreement & Timeframe

- TPL has through end of 2008 to get the funding in place to purchase the property.
- TPL's agreement is based on an appraisal completed for the City by an independent appraiser.
- In order to get in line for federal funding TPL will need to know the basic plan for the long-term use of the property by early spring 08.
- TPL's idea is to work with the Working Group to come up with a general plan for the conservation and development of the property by early spring.

Questions/Discussion

- **How will the group ensure an informed conversation?** Speakers, documents via e-mail, electronic forums? What information would be useful for the group?

- **What work should this group accomplish first? Where to begin?** Members offered the following as possible entry points into the conversation:
 - Identify different possible land uses that could yield viable development and conservation portions of the property.
 - Talk to City Planning Department and others to get information about community needs including housing and other community facilities.
 - Talk to neighboring landowners such as the Elks Club and VT College to see if potential exists for a broader conversation about development, conservation, trail linkages in the neighborhood.
 - Create a timeline for the tasks ahead for the Working Group over the winter.
 - Consider ways to preserve opportunities for the development of a portion of the property in the event that a proposal cannot be finalized within the contract timeline. For example, creating a holding company for areas appropriate for development that TPL could sell a portion of the property to hold until planning efforts are completed.
 - Reach agreement among members of the Working Group on the values that should be considered/included in the creation of a land use plan for the property.

- Jim Libby agreed to provide information about Central Vermont housing needs to Working Group.

- **How will group members talk to the public about its work?** A Communication Strategy will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

Location TBA.

November 26: 5:30-7 PM

December 3: 5:30-7 PM

December 17: 5:30-7 PM

January 14: 5:30-7 PM

January 28: 5:30-7 PM

Meetings will generally be on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

Homework:

TPL requests that members identify what information would be useful to the group's work and suggestions of individuals or organizations that may be able to help.

Information and requests for information may be sent to Jennifer Knauer

(jenk@woodbury-college.edu) to be compiled & organized in partnership with TPL by

November 26.