

## Open Space Committee

### Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2013

In attendance: Linda Bireley, Anthony Irving, Parker Lord, Steven Mattson, Lisa Niccolai, and Lucius Stark

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Lisa brought forward, on the behalf of the Land Trust, a proposal to consider the town's participation in the acquisition of a 2.87 acre parcel on Selden Rd. The Johnston property has waterfront access on Selden Cove and is suitable for the creation of an overlook and small watercraft launching area (with a modest additional cost for improvements). Parking for a small number of vehicles would be available on-site.

The property is presently on the market with an asking price of \$575,000. A generous neighbor has offered to fund a 1/3 share of the cost. The Land Trust cannot offer any financial support but would apply for state open space grants that could potentially contribute up to 50% of the cost.

The committee discussed the suitability of the parcel and the limited financial funds available in the open space reserve account. The consensus of the committee was to table this proposal until the next meeting and assess any changes in the offering price of the parcel and alternatives open to the town.

Further committee consensuses noted the following:

- Lyme has limited waterfront access and the acquisition of suitable properties is encouraged and a goal of the Plan of Conservation and Development. Such parcels are rare.
- The town's few present waterfront sites should be made accessible for canoe/kayak entry points along the full length of the town's riverfront. Suggestions were made for the installation of stone steps where needed and signage to communicate the property's availability. Lack of parking was noted as one limitation in the development potential at the sites now owned.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.