

Open Space Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, the voters of the Town approved Warrant Article 22, Open Space Acquisition Bond, in the election held on June 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Article 22 authorizes funding for the Board of Selectmen to acquire property interests for conservation purposes, according to specified conservation, vulnerability, and other criteria established by the Amherst Conservation Commission ("ACC"); and

WHEREAS, the ACC will evaluate and, pursuant to the further authority and procedures of RSA 41:14-a, present to the Planning Board and ultimately recommend to the Board of Selectmen proposed purchases of conservation property interests funded pursuant to Article 22; and

WHEREAS, the ACC believes its evaluations and recommendations would benefit from the input of an advisory committee of land use entities and members of the public and that such a committee would facilitate arriving at recommendations supported by the town; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen agrees with the ACC on the desirability and utility of such an advisory committee;


NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Selectmen establish the Open Space Advisory Committee as follows:

1. The Open Space Advisory Committee is hereby established by the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of advising the ACC and the Board of Selectmen on evaluations and recommendations of property interests proposed for purchase under Article 22, the Open Space acquisition Bond, as conservation land.
2. The Committee initially shall be comprised of one member of the Board of Selectmen (who shall serve as chair of the committee), one member of the Amherst Conservation Commission, one member of the Amherst Planning Board, and three members of the public appointed by the Board of Selectmen, one of whom may be a member of a local private conservation land trust. Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. The Board of Selectmen shall select the appointees, may revise the membership from time to time, and may disband the committee when it deems such action advisable.
3. The Committee shall meet from time to time at the call of the chair and in coordination with the chair of the Amherst Conservation Commission, as necessary to advise the ACC and Board of Selectmen on property evaluations and recommendations and to offer such other advice as it may think helpful to support the acquisition of conservation land as authorized by Article 22. In rendering its advice, the Committee shall recognize the acquisition criteria established by the ACC and shared with the voters in support of Article 22. Committee members shall maintain confidentiality with respect to the specific properties under consideration, the negotiation of price and other terms for any acquisition, and other information presented in any duly convened non-public session, unless and until such information is made public.
4. The Committee's role shall be advisory only. It is intended that the Committee's advice will be prompt and shall not be reason for any delay in deadlines that may be established in proposed transactions. The Committee's advice, while strongly desired, shall not be considered a mandatory condition of proceeding with a proposed acquisition. It is not intended that the Committee shall use outside resources in rendering its advice.

Recommended by the ACC on June 23, 2021
Updated July 12, 2021

5. Nothing herein is intended to substitute for or alter in any way the procedures of RSA 41:14-a, which Article 22 requires be used to acquire those properties for which it provides funding.
6. The Committee shall give public notice of its meetings, prepare minutes, and conduct its work in compliance with RSA 91-A. Non-public sessions, if any, shall be held in compliance with and only as authorized by law.

Approved by the Amherst Board of Selectmen:

 7-26-21

Peter Lyon, Chair



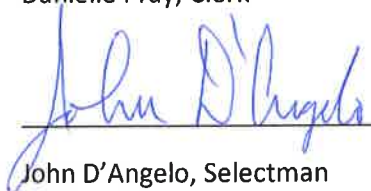
Dwight Brew, Vice Chair

 7-26-21

Danielle Pray, Clerk



Thomas Grella, Selectman

 7-26-21

John D'Angelo, Selectman