

Gully Hill Easement Committee
May 6, 2013
Council Chambers
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

In attendance:

Council: Candace Bouchard, Fred Keach, Jennifer Kretovic, Jan McClure, Dan St. Hilaire

Conservation Commission: Jim Owers

Staff: Gloria McPherson; Carlos Baía

Gloria McPherson presented a brief overview of the parcel and the history of its acquisition.

Dan St. Hilaire noted that this property is in a good location and that he'd like to see some of it possibly used for athletic fields or for events. He felt that the easement in question was very restrictive and wouldn't allow for permanent bathrooms.

Jan McClure explained that this parcel is prime agricultural soil which is fast disappearing in the community. Mr. St. Hilaire stated that the easement would restrict the use permanently.

Ms. McClure noted that protecting farmland is in the City's master plan. Fred Keach questioned whether such protection is the best use for this specific property.

Carlos Baía asked for the reason why such an easement is being sought in this case. Ms. McClure explained that it is to protect the land from the whims of politics.

Ms. McClure asked if the City has prioritized an expansion of playing fields. Candace Bouchard was not aware that this was a City priority.

The committee tasked staff with providing the following information to be discussed at a June 24, 2013 meeting:

- What is included in the City's definition of "open space"?
- What, if any, shortages in athletic fields is the City experiencing?
- How many conservation easements does the City have presently?
- Timeline of this parcel's acquisition

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.