



In attendance: Commission Members Tom Jewell, Patrizia Bailey, Simon Rucker, William Mann, Colleen Tucker, Roger Berle, Steve Morgenstein, and Mayor Ethan Strimling. City staff members Ethan Hipple, Doug Roncarati, Greg Mitchell, Michael Goldman, Camille Alden and Alli Carroll. Member of the public: George Rheault.

Land Bank Commission Minutes

December 14, 2017

5:00 PM

Portland, Maine City Hall

389 Congress Street, Room 24

Meeting began at 5:05 PM.

I. Citizen Comment Period

No public comment at this time.

II. Agenda Items

i. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2017

Roger moved to accept the meeting minutes of November 9, 2017, Simon seconded. Passed unanimously.

Colleen, Kara, Bill and Camille entered at 5:10 PM.

ii. New Business

There is no new business at this time.

iii. Old Business

a. Update on status of Redlon Properties under consideration for Land Bank Designation scheduled for the Jan. 3, 2018 Council Agenda

Greg supplied a packet for the members of the Commission to review. He then highlighted the attached memo and maps. Since City Council postponed action on the Redlon Woods proposal in October, staff has been doing research on legal issues associated with tax-acquired properties. Since some discrepancies arose, staff is suggesting that five properties be removed from original proposal (193-B-6, 193-B-7, 177-F-20, 177-F-21, and 177-F-22) as well as the donated property. The prior property owners of the five parcels redeemed their properties by paying past due property taxes and a boundary survey is needed for the next step with the donation. Greg and Michael are going to keep in contact with Mr. Cott.

Commission and staff continued to discuss by going over the maps projected on the wall. Public access to trails and open spaces was a major concern for all members. Ethan described a few different access points such as the area by the fire station and off of Rockland Avenue. Mayor Strimling brought up that by taking out the five parcels, two parcels (177-F-23 and 177-F-19) now seem disconnected. The Commission discussed taking those two parcels out of the proposal and how leaving them in could affect future plans.

Mayor Strimling made a motion to amend the original recommendation to City Council by also taking 177-F-23 and 177-F-19 out. Roger seconded.

Public comment: George Rheault disagreed with Ethan Hipple's opinion of the area by the fire station being used as public access because it is access the fire station needs and is not trail ready. Finally, as a negotiating tactic, he would keep the two parcels in to add pressure to reacquire the parcels from the three property owners in between them.

Tom asked who was in favor. Five in favor. Pat, Colleen, and Roger opposed. Motion carries.

Roger and Mayor Strimling excused themselves at 6:00 PM.

b. Paper Street Subcommittee

Camille described the presentation projected on the wall. She explained which streets were vacated and their relation to Land Bank properties. One concern was the rights of an owner that also abutted a vacated street. Camille said that half would go to the City and half to the owner.

Bill moved to put any portion of a vacated street adjoining or abutting a Land Bank property would go into the Land Bank. Simon seconded.

Public comment: George Rheault stated that this is a huge impact on staff and budget, and the Commission should see what one of these would entail and then assess.

Tom asked all in favor. Passed unanimously.

Commission thanked Camille for the maps provided and for joining them this evening.

c. CMP License – Kara

Kara stated that Portland Trails will be sending a package on a variety of things to CMP in January. This will be included in that.

iv. Communications/Updates

a. Report from Parks Commission – Meri

As Meri is not in attendance and Parks Commission did not meet this month, there isn't a report at this time.

Colleen moved to adjourn the meeting. Simon seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.