Select Board Minutes
Holland Town Hall
October 17th, 2018 @ 7 PM
27 Sturbridge Road
Holland, MA

Present:

Select Board Members: Ernie Fancy, Member & Janine C. Drake, Capitol Planning Member
Capitol Planning Members: Linda Blodgett & Janine Drake
Finance Board Members: Joe Yizitsky, Chair; John Ebersold, Vice Chair & Stacy Stout, Assistant Secretary
Opacum Trust: Ed Hood, Director; Jen Ohop, Member: Also Norcross Employee
Conservation Commission: Andy Harhay, Chair
COA: Chris Haller, Chair
Open Space: Dick Haller
Trails Committee: Dick Haller
Citizen at Large: John Scott

Absent: *Capitol Planning, Chair: Bettina Schmidt; Select Board Member: Larry Mandell*

Meeting called to order by Joe Yiznitsky at 7:01 PM

Informational Meeting Regarding Sichol Propery:

Please see attached proposal from Opacum regarding the project.

Opacum is named after a rare salamander.

Opacum Trust: Mr. Hood presents: Opacum is a 2 state organization working on several projects. Opacum has been working with SB and Conservation Commission. Opacum would be helping the town to purchase Sichols property. Opacum is a 501 C 3 non-profit organization. Property is 173 acres of land in the center of Holland. Sichols approached Norcross to talk about options to sell. The Sichols property has 910 ft. of frontage on Stafford Road. We are applying for a LAND grant and the state will help with 62% of the purchase, survey and legal fees. We should have an answer on the LAND grant by the end of November/beginning of December 2018. There are 17 acres (which could be subject to change to a difference amount, which would cost the town more) would be for the town to do what Holland would like to do with it. The 17 acres is assessed at a higher value due to the fact this area is zoned commercial. The remainder of the property would be protected by a Conservation Easement (Restrictions) which Opacum would hold in perpetuity. Opacum would like to partner with Holland on this project. The Town of Holland will need a town vote at the Annual Town Meeting to decide what how the "17" will be used. LAND Grant offer will be good for 2 years.

Questions were raised about how the land would be divided, and the possibility of acquiring 15 acres or more along Blodgett rd. to be sold off as building lots, while maintaining 17 acres or more along Stafford rd. for town use.

Motion 101718-1: Mr. Yiznitsky made a motion to adjourn. 2nd Mr. Ebersold. So voted.
Meeting closed at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janine C. Drake

Capital Planning/Town Administrator
Town of Holland