

Holland Trails Committee, Open Space Committee & Board of Selectman

Minutes of the joint meeting

Date: December 12, 2018

Present: Richard (Dick) & Chris Haller, Anne Hall, Ed Hood, Jen Ohop, Marcia Beal, Larry Mandell, Bettina Schmidt, Ernie Fancy, Linda Blodgett, & Howie Fife

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Dick Haller who acted as chairman. The purpose of the meeting was to formulate a plan to inform the public regarding the Sichel property.

There is no word on the status of the Land Grant.

Ernie suggested that the town's portion of land should include 5 house lots on Blodgett Road. The feasibility of this idea will be determined when we learn that the grant has been approved.

At that time, we will begin a campaign to inform the public regarding this property. Resources which will be utilized include social media, email lists, drone footage, and still photographs. The Town of Holland has an LCD projector and screen which is available for presentations.

Please send the best of your photographs to Dick. We hope to have pictures of the property in all seasons.

A series of press releases is planned. The first will be released when the grant is approved. Opacum will be responsible for that. The second will be released when a video is completed. The Open Space Committee will write that one. The third will be submitted a few weeks before the annual town meeting. The Selectmen will take responsibility for that.

All press releases will be posted on social media and will be made available as links on the town's webpage.

A 10-15 minute video is planned. The video will present visual images of the property and information regarding its importance as open space and the possibilities for the portion which would be available to the town for future building. Tristan Braun will edit the video. Dick, Chris, Ed, Anne, Larry, and Bettina all offered to appear in the video. Chris will see if someone from the Hamilton Reservoir Association would be willing to speak. Bettina will check with the PTO and Rod & Gun Club.

There will be a series of informational meetings at the Community / Senior Center beginning with the Opacum pancake breakfast in March. There will also be a presentation following lunch at the Center and one in the evening. Chris & Dick will coordinate this effort.

In addition, organizations in Holland will be contacted to see if they would be open to hearing a presentation, emailing information to their members, or including it in their newsletter. Bettina will contact the PTO, the Rod & Gun Club, and the church. Chris will reach the Friends of the Holland Community Center and the Hamilton Reservoir Association. Dick will contact appropriate town committees. Anne offered to incorporate information into clean-up day.

Walks on the property will be coordinated by the Trails Committee and Opacum. The first walk will follow the Opacum pancake breakfast. The Trails Committee will sponsor a snowshoe hike in February and a spring walk in April or May. Dick will make sure that town boards and committees receive an invitation.

An informational mailing is planned a few weeks before town meeting. Jen Ohop will design a brochure which could be used. Opacum plans to do a broader mailing beyond their membership, and the brochure could be included in a routine town mailing or in a special mailing by the Select Board. Alternatively, it might be possible for the Trails Committee to fund such a mailing.

The presentation of the article at town meeting was also discussed. Considerations include a possible presentation, an explanatory handout, a table with information, and a diverse group of speakers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Richard Haller
Chairman Holland Trails & Open Space Committees