

**John Murray**

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**Subject:** FW: Open Space Advisory agreement

On Jan 24, 2005, Selectmen Ashton brought forth a proposal for the formation of a continuing "Open Space Committee" and the Board approved proposal. While it was not Selectman Ashton's intent, the approved proposal required amendments to the Town Charter. The proposal has been reworked so Charter Amendments are not necessary. Selectmen Ashton has reviewed and approved the changes. Therefore, we are asking for the Board to adopt the revised proposal as a consent item.

John

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**From:** Peter Ashton  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2005 11:05 AM  
**To:** John Murray  
**Subject:** Re: Open Space Advisory agreement

looks fine to me.

Peter

2/25/2005

## Town of Acton Open Space Committee

The 2002 – 2007 Town of Acton *Open Space and Recreation Plan* (OSRP) identified three primary Goals and Objectives for preserving the vision of the community as expressed through the OSRP. These included

- Preserving the remaining elements of Acton's rural character;
- Protecting the environment to insure clean water and unpolluted lands; and
- Improving the passive and active recreational opportunities for all of the Town's citizens, both young and old.

In order to better insure that the above goals be accomplished, the OSRP recommended that the OSRP Committee remain active beyond the completion of the Plan, and that it be charged "with the ongoing responsibility to evaluate open space preservation opportunities, act as an advocate to town boards, and keep the public informed about progress made on the OSRP."

Per the recommendation of the OSRP, and in recognition of the pressures being placed on Acton's remaining open space, it is proposed that an Advisory Open Space Committee be established, the primary responsibility of which will be to advise the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board and Conservation Commission as to the goals and recommendations of the OSRP.

- Advising Town Boards on land acquisition/protection opportunities, including assessment of lands associated with Article 61 and 61A offerings, land set-asides associated with PCRCs, and land gifts or defaults to the Town;
- Identifying state and federal funding opportunities for open space protection;
- Acting as sponsor and/or advocate for open space protection funding proposals to be presented to the Board of Selectmen; and
- Making recommendations as to *Open Space and Recreation Plan* amendments.
- It will have no more than seven members serving terms of three years, of which one member shall be from the Board of Selectmen, one member shall be from the Conservation Commission, and one member shall be from the Planning Board.

February 10, 2005