

**TOWN OF GRANBY**  
**TOWN-OWNED LAND STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**NOTES**  
**March 26, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Mark Higby, Chairman, Mary Jo Toczydlowski, Margaret Lareau, Richard McDermott, John Adams, and Kathryn Miller

Chairman Mark Higby called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. He introduced himself and the Committee member, briefly reviewed the history of the property at 107 East Street, and explained the purpose of this Committee.

About 25 people spoke, sharing their ideas for uses of the property at 107 East Street. There were many comments made regarding traffic concerns and speed on East Street. Depending on what might be available at 107 East Street, it may increase traffic. It was asked, who will make the decisions regarding this property and the answer was the Board of Selectmen will make the final decision. A resident asked what the purchase price of this property was stating that he feels a plan for its use should have been in place at that time. Another comment was made later at the meeting that the purchase price was based on residential use, not open space.

Comments included:

- Keeping the property as open space – for a long period of time
- Allow the property to be farm/agricultural land – lease to local farmers for growing corn/hay. Farming leases should have a 3 – 5 year limit, in an effort to have the land available for other uses if that were to become an option. The consensus is that there will always be a farmer needing to lease land. Someone asked why a farmer doesn't just buy the land and the response was that it's more economical for a farmer to lease land. Currently, market price is being paid to lease the land creating revenue to the town. A comment was made regarding the types of fertilizer used on this property.
- No development – in particular, housing
- Multi-use was a recurring comment throughout the meeting
- Whatever use is there, it should be well managed
- 4H use, learning about animals and their care. Possibly house some animals on the property.
- When a specific use for the property is determined, sell the land not being used to re-coop some of the investment cost
- Solar farm – should be looked into closely, whereas this requires a long-term commitment. Keep watching the options for solar power programs. A comment was made to not use this land for a solar farm, but put solar panels on existing town buildings instead.
- Arboretum, using volunteers to share their expertise and help with labor. Possibly coordinate with a college to sponsor a program.
- Lease a portion of the property to a nursery – long term – for growing plants and/or trees
- Incubator farm program (note: this is being done in Simsbury)
- Use a portion of the property for additional Community Gardens. Jim Glenney reported 55 people presently use the gardens at Ahrens Park and there is a waiting list.
- Granby Horse Council representative would like to see horse trails made available
- A member of the Agricultural Commission stated that this Commission reviewed the leases for town owned land and they feel that the terms regarding the length of the lease are good. Taking into consideration the years it takes a farmer to work the land to produce a good crop, she feels they have a vested interest in the land and tend to take care of it as if it were their own.
- A comment was made regarding land at Holcomb Farm that is not currently being used. There may be an opportunity to lease some of this land.

- No additional sports fields here
- A comment was made that the draw to Granby is the farming aspect
- Agricultural use, 4H use, Farmers Market, Grange use, Granby Horse Council, Flea Markets, town use, club use, and still use a portion of the property to lease for growing hay or corn.
- Designate a portion, maybe five acres as a quiet space.
- Snow melt season creates heavy flooding in some of the buffer areas, creating the need to consider the runoff
- Greenway - preserve wooded cushion around the property for nature
- Does the town want revenue generating plans or could there be something there that could cost the town
- Keep the property environmentally friendly. Passive use.

Chairman Higby thanked everyone for coming to this meeting and encouraged everyone to take the survey when it becomes available. He stated there will be another public meeting scheduled in May or June.

The public thanked the Committee for their time and effort.

The meeting ended at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Christian  
Recording Secretary