

**Hopkinton Land Use Study Committee
Meeting Notes
February 15, 2007**

Present: Liisa Jackson, Mavis O'Leary, Steve Radel, Nancy Peters, Eric Sonnett, Muriel Kramer, John Coolidge, Andy Branz, Finley Perry.

Paul Monaco and Phil Jack, Ashland Selectmen;

John Knowles, Jennifer Lund, Michael Kennedy, Estelle Chase

1. Minutes of January 17th and 18th approved.
2. Update on the land sale at Weston Nurseries: The bid from Boulder Capital was approved by the Court on February 1st, and the attorneys for the debtors directed to prepare a Sale Order. That work is still ongoing. An extension on the original time-frame was granted, and a sale order was circulated to other parties at the eleventh hour. Significant derogation of the Town's 61A rights was included in the draft, which was rejected by counsel to Hopkinton. A hearing on the matter is presently scheduled for February 21st.
3. With respect to advice of counsel regarding the Weston Nurseries Land Sale, a motion was made by Eric Sonnett, seconded by Andy Branz to authorize the Chair to determine in consultation with John Dennis the likely extent of his fees for service through the Sale Order and Notice of Sale process, including advice as to the acceptability of the expected Notice, and to forward a Request for Legal Services to the Selectmen. So voted unanimously.
4. Discussion of the decision-making process following a Notice of Sale. Review of the decision tree created by the Chair. A note that the issue of Executive order 193 having to do with replicating town-owned agricultural lands converted to another use, be added to the factors in play. A further note that our decision-making period of 120 days will now extend out to the end of June.
- 4a. Further on the foregoing, the Committee is of the general opinion that, were a town meeting vote to be scheduled, such would be best undertaken at a special town meeting in June rather than the Annual Meeting in May. Reasons include the extended time period now running until late June, and the importance of the issue.

5. Discussion of the Sasaki East Hopkinton Planning Project: Enthusiasm expressed for the quality, content, and range of the work being done, as well as concern for the need to provide a variety of planning alternatives, and non-development solutions in the final product. In the end, it was agreed that we are in a process at the moment. The product will come later in March or April following community input.
6. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday February 28th at 7:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Finley H. Perry, Jr. Chairman