Executive Session

Present: Al Collings  Keith Arsenault, Treasurer
        Tom Schnare  Marie Arsenault, Accountant
        Phil Landine  Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
        Roy Roberts  Barry Nadon, Jr., Selectman
        Jack Tivnan  Cynthia Henshaw, East Quabbin Land Trust
        Diane Vayda
        Nicole Vongratsamy

The meeting was called to order by Chair Al Collings at 6:40 p.m.

Status of McRevey Transaction: Cynthia Henshaw, East Quabbin Land Trust, stated that the Town did not get the land grant and the McRevey Trustees have not been informed. She stated that the Land Trust is seeking ways to move forward.

1. To see if the Town was willing to use their funds in the amount of $182,000.00 without reimbursement.
2. To see if the Town would enter into a mortgage with the Land Trust and give them another year to apply again.

Tom Schnare asked why we did not get the grant. Cynthia Henshaw stated that there were not enough funds and our score was 38, which was 4 points below the cap and the project did not get considered. Al Collings asked what was low and what needs raising. Cynthia Henshaw stated that we need to have an Open Space Plan by 12/31/2010 and we are working on that now. We also need a Water Response Plan and there are a number of other items we could do. This will give us an opportunity to talk with other communities about their grants although there is no guarantee we will get a grant next year even if we get the points.

Cynthia Henshaw would like us to go before the Town for a vote to fund $182,000.00 for the Conservation Restriction. The total cost is $570,000.00 overall and the cost of the Conservation Restriction is $276,000.00. If the Town voted $182,000.00 to purchase the Conservation Restriction, which is 66%, the East Quabbin Land Trust would fund the difference. The Land Trust would buy and hold the property until a buyer was found to own and farm the land. The question was asked when the purchase and sales agreement ended and the answer was 12/31/2010. Cynthia Henshaw said the McRevey’s are to cleanup the sawmill site and other things and they have not yet started. Al Collings asked what other options do the McReveys have at this time. Keith Arsenault said we would have to ask Town Counsel whether we could loan the money. Jack Tivnan suggested
asking the Irving England Fund. Johanna says that the funding has already been decided for this year and the checks will be out the end of December.

Barry Nadon said that we have land now that we cannot manage and this is a very large parcel. Al Collings felt that we should put on hold for 12 months and reapply for the grant. Phil Landine agreed with Al Collings. Jack Tivnan said would have to check with Town Counsel about a loan. Cynthia Henshaw said a decision needs to be made very soon. Barry Nadon is not fully convinced that the way to go is buying. Diane Vayda said she was in favor of acquiring the land.

Jack Tivnan stated that the Selectmen have to make this decision. Johanna Barry said the Selectmen are meeting on November 16, 2010. There needs to be two weeks before a Town Meeting and hold a last day to register to vote. Also we will need to rescind the previous vote.

Barry Nadon asked could the Town pull gravel for its own use. Cynthia Henshaw said the McRevey Trustees would have to agree.

Al Collings asked the Advisory Committee members what their recommendation would be if a Town meeting were held. A “Straw Vote” was taken with 4 (four) yes and 3 (three) no.

The executive session ended at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary