

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2010

This meeting was posted to coincide with a public presentation of the final results of the ground penetrating radar study performed at the Mariamante property in October 2009. The meeting was posted because a majority of the Selectboard was going to attend.

Present: John Ward, Randy Crochier, and Ann Banash, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant.

Others Present: Doug Harris, Elizabeth Perry, Jonathan Perry, Doria Kutrubes (arrived at 7:30pm), and approximately 35 Gill residents and other members of the public and press.

John opened the meeting at 7:03pm and made welcoming remarks. He introduced Doug Harris, who explained some of the long ago, past, and recent history of the property. Doug also discussed the interest that the various Native American Tribes have in preserving the property.

Doria Kutrubes arrived at 7:30pm and devoted the next 2+ hours to a detailed presentation on ground penetrating radar (GPR), its terminology and methodology, and her analysis and interpretation of the radargrams recorded at the Mariamante property. She pointed out that she has 26+ years of experience in the field of GPR.

Doria explained that she believes the radargrams show evidence of burials scattered across most of the field, with a concentration along the Main Road edge of the field. The radargrams also show several large circular areas of disturbance, as well as an X-shaped area. She noted that regular shapes are not often formed by nature.

Doria stated that whether there is any final written report of her findings is a decision for the Tribes and the Town. She noted that she has not charged the Town for any of her hundreds of hours of work on this project, but that she has received donations from others present at tonight's meeting.


In the discussion that followed, Doug Harris reaffirmed the Tribes commitment to try to partner with the Town – the Tribes are still interested in protecting the whole parcel, and in assisting the Town in getting repaid for its costs.

Doug proposed a follow-up public meeting be held in mid-November, with participation from the Town, Tribes, Doria, Mount Grace Land Trust, and the Indian Country Conservancy (from Oregon, and a spinoff of the Trust for Public Lands). The meeting will include a discussion of potential funding sources to preserve the property and repay the Town. Doug will get potential dates to Ray. John suggested that this meeting could be held as part of a regular Selectboard meeting.

Several Gill residents acknowledged that the property does appear to be unsuitable for development, and stated in various ways, "It is time for the Tribes to buy it."

The meeting ended/adjourned at 10:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk