

Open Space Task Force Minutes

October 2, 2023

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, Joe Kennedy, Jeff Folger, Bill Flagg, John Caldwell, Barbara Kelly, George Caye, Marek Kozikowski-Town Council Liaison

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:30.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Public Participation

None.

Minutes

The minutes were accepted as amended.

Correspondence and Reports

Marek Kozikowski reported that property owned by his wife's family on Clark Street (13 acres) is being sold with a stipulation that the property could not be developed for 15 years.

Barbara Kelly told the group that new guidelines for storm water and soil sediment have finally been approved. They have not been upgraded since the early 2000's.

Joe Kennedy talked about a federal grant to work on Schank Road (clean-up of the area). John Caldwell said the town has a grant for a feasibility study in the same area. They are looking at passive recreation or kayaking launch which would include handicap access.

Old Business

John Caldwell said the Apple Fest will be October 14th. Pat Botteron reminded everyone that we will just have our material there at the P&Z table.

New Business

Everyone was sent out the information on 561 Strong Road. Open Space Task Force was asked to review the property and then recommend purchasing the property or not. The positive discussion was the land was home for habitat, the area would protect neighbors from the town composting, the property is on the master plan for purchase, the parcel is near other open space so this may work for the future and no cost impact for maintenance since it is a treed area. The negative was mostly whether Open Space should pay for it if Public Works is the department that really wants it. Could there be a cost sharing between Open Space and the Town? It may not work because the referendum cut off is over \$25,000 and the split would still be over \$25,000.

Joe Kennedy moved that "Open Space Task Force recommend to the Town Council the purchase of 561 Strong Road. However, if the property is used for any other use than open space, the town will reimburse the Open Space Bond Money." Barbara Kelly seconded the motion.

Yes: Joe Kennedy, Sue Larsen, Jeff Folger, George Caye, John Caldwell, Bill Flagg, Pat Botteron, Herb Asplund, Barbara Kelly

No: Roy Normen

Other Business

The next meeting will be November 13, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen