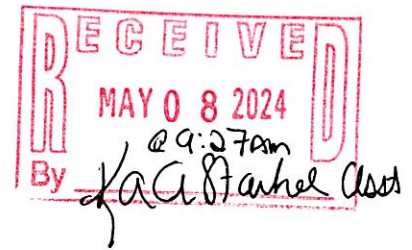


Open Space Task Force Minutes

May 6, 2024



Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Roy Normen, Joe Kennedy, Bill Flagg, Barbara Kelly, George Caye, Justin Russo, Carolyn Carey-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 for 2020 vs 2000 .

Correspondence and Reports

Joe Kennedy handed out the Goals for Farmland Purchase of Development Rights and contact numbers for grant information. He plans on going before Town Council to get \$50,000 to \$60,000 put away every year for the Agricultural Vision.

Barbara Kelly remarked on her and Justin developing a map that will overlay the good farm soil on a parcel level detail.

Old Business

Barbara Kelly, Joe Kennedy and Pat Botteron represented Open Space Task Force on Earth Day. Updated laminated maps need to be done. It would be great to see what can be done on the parcel like walking trails or other activities. It would also be helpful if the maps could be downloaded from the town website. Making the maps more accessible would only lead to more support for the trails and therefore more \$.

New Business

Pat Botteron started the review of the Planning & Zoning Plan of Conservation & Development.

Page 1-2 No Recommended Change

Page 2.7 No Recommended Change

Page 3-2 Add the last statement under low density to the medium density.

Open Space subdivisions should be encouraged in this area as a tool to maximize open space protection.

Page 3-11 Open Space Task Force – Prepares the Open Space Plan, ~~advocates~~ evaluates and advises for acquisition of specific properties.

Bill Flagg would like more funding similar to what Joe Kennedy is proposing for Agricultural Vision.

Barbara Kelly brought up that we should be more proactive in planning and maybe change the ordinance in order to reflect more of what we should be doing. Most agreed. 78-33 is the ordinance we function under.

The task force discussed a referendum. We need to remind the council that it is not spending the money but allowing the town council to have the money approved if a property becomes available.

Page 5-5 Open Space Task Force – Prepares the Open Space Plan, ~~advocates~~ evaluates and advises for acquisition of specific properties.

Page 5-6 Add the purchase in 2020 of the Scantic Road Property

Objective A bullet 2 Partner with Open Space Task Force and other organizations to help create and enhance an overall open space system.

Page 3-12 Roy will write up a description of the use of A490. Most residents are not aware of this.

We need to find more grants to improve our properties. Justin will discuss with Michelle Lipe, Planning, about any contacts within the town to ask. Who can help Open Space if we find a grant that we can apply for.

Chapter 8 No recommended Change

Other Business

Heritage Day will be September 28th with a rain date of September 29th.

The next meeting will be June 3, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen