

# **SOUTH WINDSOR AGRICULTURE, ARTS & NATURE CENTER COMMITTEE**

## **TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR**

**Minutes**

**Page 1**

**February 14, 2018**

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### **South Windsor Public Library – Board Room**

#### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Members Present: Pat Botteron, Open Space Task Force  
John Caldwell, Park & Recreation Department  
Stephanie Dexter, Planning & Zoning Commission  
Mary Etter, Director of S. W. Public Library  
Ray Favreau, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Michele Lipe, Director of Planning  
Virginia Macro, Historic District Commission  
John Mitchell, Rotary Club  
Andrew Paterna, South Windsor Food Alliance  
Tim Shepard, South Windsor Land Trust  
Councilor Jan Snyder, Town Council

Members Absent: Jeff Folger, Senior Environmental Planner  
Katie Graham, Park & Recreation Commission  
Sandy Jeski, SWALPAC  
Councilor Liz Pendleton, Town Council  
Betty Warren, IWA/CC

Others Present: Skip Bourke, South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways  
Councilor Matthew Riley, Town Council

#### **3. Approval of Past/Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Lipe made a motion to approve the November 8, 2017 and January 10, 2018 minutes. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion; and the motion passed with Mr. Mitchell abstaining from the vote.

#### **4. Public Input**

None

## MINUTES

South Windsor Agriculture, Arts & Nature Center Committee

February 14, 2018

Page 2

### ITEM:

#### 5. Discussion items

##### Frank Kaputa to Visit the Site to Evaluate Unique Trees Prior to Clearing

Chairman Paterna explained that the trees that should be kept have been tagged.

##### Brush Clearing around Farmhouse

Mr. Caldwell reported that clearing on the property has been started. There is concrete, brick, and steel on the property that will need to be removed. There will be further clearing done as well as other trees and brush that may need to be removed from the property. Mr. Caldwell explained that he might hire someone to spray the bamboo.

##### Exterior Lights Work Again

Mr. Caldwell explained that someone had turned the breaker off. Mr. Major will be contacted to ensure that the exterior lights on the property are in working order. It is hopeful that the lights will deter vandalism.

##### Report on Grant Award

Mrs. Lipe stated that she would be contacting Mary Dunn to discuss and understand the scope of work that should be included in the RFP.

Committee members discussed the outbuildings that are located on the property. It was felt that these structures would be useful for the individual who will be living on the property. Mr. Shepard suggested that the bathroom and staircase be relocated so it will meet code.

##### Planning for a "Farm to Table" Event to Increase Public Awareness in the Project

Chairperson Paterna stated that this could be discussed in the future.

#### 6. New Business

##### Presentation – Councilor Matt Riley –Alternative Idea

Councilor Riley came before the Committee and explained that he would like the Committee to consider putting a winery on the Priest Farm property which would

**(Discussion Continued on Next Page)**

## MINUTES

### South Windsor Agriculture, Arts & Nature Center Committee

February 14, 2018

Page 3

#### **ITEM:**

#### **6. New Business (Continued)**

generate revenue with a third party running the actual business end. Mrs. Lipe informed the Committee that there is a bond restriction on this property and it would probably have to go back out to referendum. Councilor Riley stated that this idea would eliminate the concern regarding funding for this project.

Mr. Shepard stated that he loves the idea but does not feel this property is appropriate for a vineyard because it is very wet. Mr. Shepard questioned if there is another location in Town where a vineyard could be located. Councilor Snyder stated that the Foster Farm is moving forward with a winery. Mrs. Lipe added that there are a lot of requirements that the property has to meet to become a winery.

Chairman Paterna stated that the Priest Farm is a community farm and he is not sure a winery is a right fit for this property.

Committee members felt that this concept should be discussed further to see if having a winery at Foster Farm could be a mechanism to fund the Priest Property project. Mrs. Dexter suggested that this be put on the citizen survey to see if residents like a concept like this.

#### **7. Next Meeting Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at the South Windsor Public Library in the Board Room.**

#### **8. Adjournment**

At 6:36 p.m. Mrs. Dexter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah W. Reid  
Council Clerk