

Open Space Task Force Minutes

March 6, 2023

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, Joe Kennedy, Jeff Folger, Bart Pacekonis, Bill Flagg, Barbara Kelly, Joe Kennedy, George Caye

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.

Correspondence and Reports

Barbara Kelly said the bylaws for Inland Wetlands Commission have been updated after 22 years. The significant change was in the review area from 80 ft. to 100 ft. Also, the commission now has more ability to force applicants to insure the application is complete.

Bart Pacekonis reported that P&Z has been busy because the moratorium on both the multi family housing and the distribution centers are coming to an end. P&Z is looking to change the regulations to include more affordable housing. Hopefully the regulation will go into effect around March 27th.

George Caye said Parks & Rec will be moving to the old Orchard Hill School this summer.

Joe Kennedy said the Agricultural Commission will go back to in person meetings. They are planning 3 events for this year.

Pat Botteron thanked Jeff Folger for all the hard work he has put in in order to finish the Master Plan. Pat received a Christmas card from Carol Heffler (a former member of OSTF) . Carol also wanted to pass on her sadness to the families of Betty Osbourne, Betty Warren and Louise Evans. It was found on Facebook that a young man was enthusiastic about Wapping Park. Pat worked with Caitlin O'Neal on updating the website. You can find Open Space under P&Z.

Dates to Remember:

May 2nd Pollicelli Awards

Sept. 30th Heritage Day

April 15th Earth Day

No word on CT Trails Day

Pat reported that 76 Devonshire has been sold.

Old Business

It appears that the Birden and Raymond properties are on the market as one sale. The Wagon Shed property is still up in the air.

Master Plan: The group decided not to put the members names in the report. Leave it as is with just the positions. Pat read her presentation so everyone could make comments before she does it at a town council meeting. Several members suggested we have the ability to suggest properties to the Town Council in a more proactive manner based on the property list.

Jeff Folger will send out the flow chart again. This will not be included in the Master Plan.

Jeff is working with IT to get the maps into the report. Currently the maps are done separately.

A final review of the property was done since the properties listed would allow P&Z to put aside 50% for open space. Jeff added the Warren property (15 acres on 494 Abby Road). Pressure for development is very strong.

Roy Norman had an issue with the wording about Mitchell Park. He stated that the Barton Park was the OSTF accomplishment and not the Mitchell Park. He will send Jeff the corrected wording.

Herb Asplund had a few corrections. On page 10, eliminate SWALPAC and use either Agricultural Commission or SWAC. On page 21, take out the italics. On page 24, eliminate the first line. By consensus, the changes will be made.

New Business

None.

Other Business

The next meeting will be April 3, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen