

## Open Space Task Force Draft Minutes

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM

April 5, 2021

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, Jeff Folger, Joe Kennedy, George Caye, Betty Warren, Bill Flagg, Council Liaison Karen Lydecker

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

**Public Participation:** None

**Minutes:** The January minutes were accepted as written.

### **Correspondence and Reports**

Joe Kennedy did a shout out to Betty Warren and Pat Botteron for their over 30 years of work protecting open space. He also recognized Phil Koboski on SWALPAC.

Jeff Folger reported that there would be an executive session on the Gallivan property tonight at the Town Council meeting.

Pat Botteron read the thank card from the Streeter family. The Chair reported that CT Trails Day would take place on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Major Donnelly Park, but that OSTF would not participate again this year due to Covid.

Tim Shepard called to request that the OSTF look at a property near Ferry Lane. Chair Botteron explained the process of going through the Town Manager to request the site walk. Betty Warren suggested going to a Town Councilor would be quicker. Herb Asplund asked if there were development rights on Ferry Lane already. Joe Kennedy said the State made an offer on the Raymond property. Jeff Folger thought it was the Birden property. The Town may consider development rights on the upper piece of land which is buildable.

Jeff Folger gave an update on the Open Space properties. 1355 Ellington Road buildings have been demolished except for one garage. Parks & Rec plans to build a parking lot on the site. The out buildings on the Priest property have been removed. An evaluation of the silo is being done. The town would like to keep the silo as a landmark. Model airplanes are now flying at Barton Park. Bill Flagg added that P&Z approved the park for the Wapping Fair.

### **New Business**

Discussion on the Town Council task of combining Boards and Commissions began. The major difference between SWALPAC and OSTF is the make-up of the groups. Each has a different component, such as

SWALPAC having real estate, banking and farmers included while OSTF has Park & Rec, SWALPAC, Inland Wetlands, Land Trust, P&Z, Town Staff and residents.

Joe Kennedy said SWALPAC is an advocate for farmers. They look for financial opportunities such as grants and provide agricultural education. Open Space is an advisory group to the Town Council. Our job is based on requests from the Town Manager or Town Council.

Herb Asplund had sent an email to everyone that we should not be concerned just yet since this is just a talking point right now. Bill Flagg agreed and said let the Town Council do their own research into this.

Betty Warren said the concern was that the Town Council can't fill the commissions but both groups do have full membership.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Bill Flagg said some groups are starting to meet in person. Joe Kennedy said SWALPAC will have an outdoor meeting at the Pavilion in July. Jeff Folger said the major issue is getting the public access to the meetings.

Herb Asplund recognized that Joe Kennedy has now been able to join us online!

The next meeting will be May 3, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen