

Open Space Task Force Minutes

September 11, 2017

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Louise Evans, Betty Warren, Roy Normen, Sue Larsen, Bill Flagg, Herb Asplund, Jeff Folger, George Caye, John Caldwell, Matt Riley

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:34.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance.

The minutes of the April, May, June and August meetings were accepted as amended for Corrections by Pat Botteron.

Public Participation

None.

New Business

Matt Riley reported that the closing on the Sledding Hill was on Thursday or Friday. The Kelly property is in negotiation. He also talked about the budget struggle due to the lack of a state budget.

Pat Botteron mentioned a conference at Storrs on October 19th. The fee is \$60. Let Pat or Jeff know if anyone is interested in going.

John Caldwell reported the effort the town staff was doing for the Festival of Lights. They would be stringing lights for the event and other tasks in preparation. No cost estimate was given when asked.

Roy Normen reported that Tim Shepard was selected as Person of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce and he has been very supportive of Open Space, Land Trust and Farmland preservation.

Pat Botteron opened a discussion on presenting a development rights program to the Town Council again. Roy Normen and Andy Paterna were to put together a power point presentation. Jeff Folger handed out a brochure used in Chicago that had a lot of good information to work with. The discussion turned more to how we reach a maximum numbers of residents. Betty Warren thought the 490 list of owners was a good start. Bill Flagg talked about reaching people in other ways like an event. Some mentioned using the Park & Rec brochure or the senior letter. The information should be formatted in a way that helps Matt Galligan use it to give owners the options available to them.

Old Business

The Heritage Fair was cancelled due to lack of a location and power.

The North Main Street property (Raymond-Birden) is in the queue at the State DoAg for PDR.

The Hamm property on Barber Hill is being reviewed by the State for PDR. Town participation will be approximately 25%.

The Boy Scouts under Steve Lewis are continuing to pull the water chestnut out. Monarch butterflies appear to be coming back.

The Wapping Fair was successful at the Barton Park. Billy Mitchell and Jay Murtha assisted with chips, stones and labor when rain caused issues on the property.

Other Business

The group had a discussion about amending the ordinance. The concepts were to make some members honorary or ex-officio, membership based on a department and not the directors and then removing obsolete positions. Next meeting we are to come back with our individual suggestions.

Elections of Officers: Betty Warren nominated Pat Botteron as Chair. Seconded by Louise Evans. Herb Asplund nominated Louise Evans as Vice Chair. Bill Flagg seconded. Pat Botteron nominated Sue Larsen as secretary. Herb Asplund seconded. All votes were unanimous.

The next meeting will be October 2, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue W. Larsen, Secretary