

## **Open Space Task Force Minutes**

June 4, 2018

**Attendance:** Pat Botteron, Louise Evans, Betty Warren, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, Jeff Folger, Joe Kennedy, Bill Flagg

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Botteron at 5:30 p.m. Secretary Sue Larsen was absent and the Chair asked Louise Evans to take the minutes in her absence.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance.

### **Public Participation:**

There was no public participation.

Minutes from the May meeting were not presented, therefore, the minutes from May were tabled.

### **Correspondence and Reports:**

Roy Normen reported the Walk and Wheelways Committee have a long range conceptual design that involves acquisition of suitable land that would connect with other land in East Windsor. They start in a subdivision going toward Niederwerfer property, Pleasant Valley Road and Chapel Hill. Chairperson of the Walk and Wheel Ways Committee Ginny Hole can come to a future OSTF meeting and present their plans from the south to the north. Most of what they have now has been surveyed and mapped. There may be concerns with stabilizing some of the areas so they would be suitable for pedestrian and bicycle use.

Environmental Planner Jeff Folger discussed the Priest Property. There needs to be outdoor work on the site plan and wetlands. A structural engineer will look at the inside of the house. The immediate goal is to have a farmer reside there.

CT Trail Days was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Major Michael Donnelly Preserve. There were 32 adults and 9 children who attended along with many people with infants and dogs. Many who attended were from other towns and commented on the diversity and beauty of this property.

### **New Business:**

Chair Pat Botteron presented Betty Warren with a proclamation and an account of awards she has earned through the years. Betty's dedication has helped to improve and change South Windsor in many ways.

Joe Kennedy, Chairperson of South Windsor Agricultural Land Preservation Commission, stated a letter is going out June 5th from SWALPAC concerning Dzen Hill.

### **Other Business:**

The boat launch site was discussed as to its future. It still is in the concept phase. There are no results yet from the citizen survey.

There are no prospects on 625 Sullivan Avenue. Jeff Folger discussed whether or not the endangered sedge which grows is determined by the amount of sunlight reaching the forest floor. When and if the property is sold, the money will come back into the Open Space Referendum Fund.

### **Old Business:**

There was considerable discussion of whether the Town Council should be asked to consider going for a \$2M referendum to be put on the November 2018 ballot. Time was of concern as well as the probability of not adding it to the referendum for this November because of a school referendum. Herb Asplund read a letter from Councilor Jan Snyder about her concerns going forward with an Open Space referendum this November.

A motion was made by Jeff Folger and seconded by Betty Warren to draft a memo to the Council to hold a referendum to bond an additional \$2M for the acquisition and/or preservation of open space to be voted on in the November 2018 elections.

There is currently \$1.9 million available for the purchase of land. This will decrease to \$1.6 million when the Shepard farm property development rights are implemented. A discussion ensued about whether 2 referendums on the same ballot could be successful. Some felt each way. It was explained by others that money is saved for the Town by having acquisition of undeveloped land.

Joe Kennedy, Chairperson of South Windsor Agricultural Land Preservation Commission, indicated that there may be some parcels for agricultural development rights becoming available. Reliable studies have shown that it costs more in education costs from children from an influx of new houses than it does to purchase the land for preservation. Infrastructure and maintenance of such also cost the Town when there is residential development. The cost of education and infrastructure is not offset by revenue from residential acquired property taxes. Others said we have always been successful in approving vacant land acquisition if the public understood the results of not doing so.

A vote was held of the commission members 5 in favor and 2 opposed. Aye: Warren, Norman, Botteron, Evans, Folger, Kennedy. Nay: Asplund, Flagg. The motion passes 5 to 2.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Evans  
Acting Secretary