

Open Space Task Force Minutes

March 5, 2018

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Louise Evans, Roy Normen, Sue Larsen, Bill Flagg, Jeff Folger, John Caldwell , Herb Asplund, George Caye, Joe Kennedy

Guests: Daryl Ramsey, Tim Shepard, Shawn Jacobaccio, David Raymond, Jessica Glass, Peter Miller, Chris Pallazzini, Andrew Paterna

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance.

The minutes of the February meeting were accepted.

Public Participation

All guests were in attendance for an agenda item.

Correspondence

A thank you note was received from Gary Bazzano.

Pat Botteron will send a card to Betty Warren with warm wishes for a recovery.

New Business

Louise Evans motioned to move the discussion of the Shepard property up on the agenda. Herb Asplund seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Jeff Folger reviewed the purchase of development rights which was originally a State and Federal project. Due to Mrs. Shepard's passing, the USDA will require the whole application process to start over. The process to date has been five years in the making. The Town has the option to take over their portion. Andy Paterna described the Shepard Farm property. Appraisals have been done of the 50 acres of farmland. Jeff Folger reported that around 35 lots would result if developed. Andy Paterna stated it was a \$700,000 investment versus \$2,600,000 if sold to developers. The report from USDA determined the land to be prime farmland soil. Tim Shepard stated if development rights to the property were bought, the land would be farmed or nothing. This would prevent development. Only farm buildings would be allowed.

Bill Flagg stated there is currently have \$1,900,000 in the fund.

Jeff Folger motioned to have Open Space send a letter to the Town Council to recommend purchasing the development rights of the Shepard property in partnership with the State of Connecticut. Louise Evans seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

Tim Shepard said that it had been 5 years of working with the State to get this far. There are 5 farms in South Windsor and both the Shepard and the Raymond families are trying to maintain the complexion of the town. It is complementary that the State recognizes farming in South Windsor. South Windsor's farms are working farms both in ownership and on rented parcels.

Old Business

Discussion on a possible referendum was tabled.

The group discussed another presentation to the Town Council on open space. The purpose of the presentation would be to get people to consider more open space for the town. Tim Shepard would be a good spokesperson. There will be further discussion on the subject.

Other Business

Jeff Folger talked about an Eagle Scout project on tick prevention. The Eagle Scout needs a supply of empty toilet paper rolls and lint from dryers to accomplish this. The scouts and their parents would put a chemical on the lint and the lint would be put in the roll. The rolls would be placed in the parks. Mice will use the lint to build their nests. Ticks attached to the mice would be killed by the chemical which is non-toxic to the mice. Ticks are already showing up in the parks and open areas.

The next meeting will be April 2, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue W. Larsen, Secretary