

# **Open Space Task Force Minutes**

## **Monday, March 7, 2016**

The meeting was held in the Sprekel Room with the following people in attendance:

Pat Botteron, Louise Evans, Roy Normen, Sue Larsen (arrived about 6:55 pm), Jeff Folger, Bart Pacekonis, (arrived at 5:45), George Caye and Herb Asplund . Meeting was not called together until we had a quorum (9 members).

Absent: Michael Gantick, John Caldwell, Betty Warren

1, Chairperson, Pat Botteron, called the meeting to order at 5:45.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

3. There were no members of the public present.

4. Roy Normen made a motion to accept the minutes of 2/02/16; seconded by George Caye.

5. Pat said that the berm at Barton Property is listed for discussion at tonight's Council session. The Council wishes to waive competitive bidding on the project. Jeff explained that 11 trees had come down in a wind storm Billy Mitchell has offered to donate sand to make the berm and will let the Town use his bulldozer. It has been decided not to plant wildflowers, but conifers at the main entrance on Brookfield, as well as bushes. An emergency entrance will be at Troy Road. The barn is still rented. The total cost \$40,612.00. Environmental Service, Inc. will contribute \$28,862.00 and the remaining \$11,750.00 will be come from the Town's Fee-In-Lieu account.

6. It was decided to exchange this item with 7, which shall be discussed first.

7. Discussion was held of the Koboski Property at 1909 Main Street. Mr. Koboski would like to sell part of his land including farmland in the flood plain and the brook area, all of it borders on the north side by the Scantic River, all of it totaling about 27 acres.

The members of the Task Force visited this property and rated it. One member, Betty Warren, sent a rating but was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The ratings were totaled and averaged 51 points on our rating scale. It was noted that this piece of land has no structures on it as it is entirely in the flood plain. Fourteen acres of it have been rented for growing corn The Task Force believes that it is important to preserve agricultural land. Discussion ensued about how the land would be preserved if the town did not purchase it.

Jeff Folger made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that the land be purchased as somewhat desirable. Second by George Caye. It was also noted that it would be a rare opportunity to gain access to the Scantic River. Some members thought this access would be the most important action.

Discussion was held about what would happen next, as well as its differences and similarities to other purchases made in the past. For example, is only an access easement necessary, and would the owner consider that? Roy Normen made a motion to table the item to our April meeting. IT WAS SECONDED BY Herb Asplund. The resulting vote was shows 6 aye and one nay, the motion carries. This matter will be brought up at the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Louise Evans, pro term secretary