

OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE MINUTES

Meeting of October 7, 2019

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Joe Kennedy, Herb Asplund, Betty Warren, Roy Normen, Louise Evans, George Caye, Bill Flagg, Jan Synder - Council

Guests Present: Michele Lipe, Director of Planning

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance.

The minutes for the September meeting were accepted.

Public Participation

Correspondence

Joe Kennedy reported that Edward Kasheta has 20 acres of land he would like to use to grow hemp.

Pat Botteron reported that the Open Space referendum account has a balance of \$3,223,777.14.

Old Business

Heritage Day was another success. Many took the brush pile pamphlets. We need to order more tote bags. Thank you to those who participated.

New Business

Michele Lipe showed a map of 1355 Ellington Road on the screen. The property measures 3 ½ acres. The approximate cost to tear down the house is \$60,000. The house has lead and asbestos to be removed.

Roy Normen motioned to "Purchase the property on 1355 Ellington Road. Herb Asplund seconded the motion. John Caldwell was asked to walk the property. No issue with adjoining the property to Wapping Park walking trails. The purchase is being sold "as is". The property has value to the town because there are no other opportunities for parking on Ellington Road to Wapping Park. Betty Warren thought it would be a good investment. Herb and Roy thought the Town has room for negotiation. John reminded everyone that others are looking at this property since the price went down. The vote was unanimous.

A new property needs to be reviewed. It is the property abutting the back, right side of the Community Garden on Deming Street. It measures 1 ½ acres and is heavily wooded. Betty Warren made a motion to "Walk the Property." Roy Normen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Everyone will walk on their own. Jeff Folger will be back next week.

John Caldwell reported on the Jones property. They have a \$300 lease for farming but they are not farming. The question is the wording on the lease. Does it contain the word farming? The Jones sign is still on Town property and should be taken down. OSTF really has no role in this. Town Councilor Jan Snyder said she would bring up our opinion when the Town Council goes into executive session tonight.

John Caldwell also reported that 17 trees were removed at Rye Street. The triangle piece of property on Deming Street is losing the buffers.

All outdoor evening events are cancelled due to EEE mosquito born virus.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will be November 4, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue W. Larsen, Secretary