

Open Space Task Force Minutes

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM

May 4, 2020

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, John Caldwell, Jeff Folger, Bill Flagg, Council Liaison Karen Lydecker

Comments were submitted by Joe Kennedy and Betty Warren to Chair Pat Botteron.

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The minutes for the March, 2, 2020 meeting were accepted.

Public Participation

None.

Correspondence

None.

Old Business

CT Trails Day has been cancelled.

New Business

The reason for the meeting was to discuss several properties being considered for purchase for open space. The discussion started with 131 Chapel Road and 89 Chapel Road. Roy Norman said 131 Chapel would allow for farming. Herb Asplund voiced concerned with the Town having to mow. John Caldwell responded that there would be a lot of mowing to be done but it is a nice lot. Jeff Folger said there is the potential of 4 to 5 lots for development.

The property at 89 Chapel Road has 24 acres with a possibility of 2 lots for development. There is right of way but there is about 65 feet of frontage. The concern is that the land is in a flood plain area.

If both lots, 89 and 131 Chapel Road, were combined there may be as many as 10 lots for development.

Jeff Folger moved to "Not to purchase 131 Chapel Road due to its limited use to farmland." The motion was seconded by John Caldwell. Roy Normen amended the motion to "Have the Town look at other ways to save prime farmland soil such as this lot." Jeff accepted it as a friendly amendment. Herb Asplund, John Caldwell, Jeff Folger, and Bill Flagg voted in favor of the motion. Sue Larsen commented

that both lots should be purchased because of the commercial development in the area. Both Joe Kennedy and Betty Warren sent statements to purchase both properties to preserve farmland.

Pat Botteron will write a rough draft of the letter for the Town Council, and include the information about Attorney Dakin and an article on Ways & Means to preserve farmland.

Next the discussion went to 140 Smith Street. Most of the members did not recommend the purchase of the property. Access is terrible and not buildable. Roy Normen suggested the Town negotiate a tax break with the owners. Jeff Folger said the Town would have to do a water & sediment test because the farmer mixed pesticides with the water in the pond. Roy Normen said the liability for the clean up has to be considered. Herb Asplund said considering the expenses associated with this property, we should not pursue this at this time.

The meeting ended at 6:10 p.m. because the Zoom meeting was limited to 40 minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen