

## Open Space Task Force Minutes

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM FOR 40 MINUTES

June 1, 2020

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, John Caldwell, Jeff Folger, Bill Flagg, George Caye, Betty Warren

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. The audio was not working properly so the meeting was delayed until everyone was able to use audio.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The minutes for the May 4, 2020 meeting were accepted.

### **Public Participation**

None.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **Old Business**

A discussion began on 150 and 124 Chapel Road. Roy Normen expressed his concerns that the Town not purchased the property. However, he still thought the land should remain farmland. Herb Asplund voiced concerned over the pesticide that may have been used. Jeff Folger said soil testing and possible remediation could be part of the contract if the Town purchased the land.

Betty Warren said that when John Mitchell was mayor, he started SWALPAC because he wanted to preserve farmland. Open Space Task Force began when people felt this would be a favorable committee to the public. Most people want to preserve farmland whether the support comes from OSTF or SWALPAC.

Chair Pat Botteron read comments received from Joe Kennedy regarding the purchase of the Salami and Jurgelas properties (131 and 89, 124 and 150 Chapel Road).

Herb Asplund was concerned that if we bought the land would it just sit there. He had a concern that Foster farm was not being farmed. It was clarified that the farm is being farmed.

John Caldwell was concerned that the land would become a hemp farm. That is an issue for the Town Council to determine if the Town purchased the land and then leased it out.

Bill Flagg asked how many acres were being discussed (9.8 acres between the two parcels).

The question was asked as to the number of houses that could be built on the property. Access to the property is limited and configuration of the parcels is also limited, so the number of houses they could accommodate is limited without the addition of adjacent properties.

A motion was made "Not to purchase 150 and 124 Chapel Road but it is recommended that the Town Council to pursue a way to preserve the land as farmland."

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Roy Norman, Herb Asplund, George Caye

No – Sue Larsen, Betty Warren, Jeff Folger, John Caldwell, Bill Flagg, Pat Botteron

Jeff Folger motioned, "To recommend to the Town Council to continue working with the Jurgelas family to purchase the property". Betty Warren seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Jeff Folger, Sue Larsen, Betty Warren, Bill Flagg, Pat Botteron

No – Roy Normen, Herb Asplund, George Caye

### **New Business**

Jeff Folger motioned to "Pursue the purchase of the Duck Pond". A roll call was started but the zoom ended at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen