

Open Space Task Force Minutes

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM FOR 40 MINUTES

July 6, 2020

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, Jeff Folger, Joe Kennedy, Town Council Liaison Karen Lydecker

Public participants: Ginny Hole, Robert Dickinson, Ken Sek

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Pat Botteron had the flag available for the meeting.

Sue Larsen moved to put agenda items 2, 3 and 4 after agenda item 6. Jeff Folger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Old Business

Jeff Folger moved that "OSTF recommends to the Town Council the purchase of 140 Smith Street." Seconded by Sue Larsen. Roy Normen said the pond may have hazardous material in it and should be tested. The land cannot be built on, and we should ask that it be donated to the Town. Roy had spoken with Tim Shepard who said the land was offered to the Land Trust. Roy also indicated the access from Clark Street is difficult. Herb Asplund confirmed OSTF members received the email information from Robert Dickinson. Jeff Folger said he spoke with Tony Manfre, Superintendent of Pollution Control, and he preferred to own the land due to the sanitary sewer ROW running through it. Joe Kennedy reminded everyone about the wildlife habitat on the property. Roy Normen amended the motion by "acquire by gift or purchase". Jeff Folger accepted it as a friendly amendment. The motion now reads – OSTF recommends to the Town Council to acquire, by gift or purchase, 140 Smith Street. The motion passed and the vote was unanimous.

Jeff Folger moved that "The Town Council accept the gift of 137 Pheasant Way." Seconded by Sue Larsen. Roy Normen asked why we would want it stating we cannot do anything with it. Herb Asplund stated he drove by the site, and there is a road/path through it which would be good for walking, but it is near other development open space and could lead to owners dumping in it. John Caldwell was not at the meeting and both Herb Asplund and Roy Normen wanted to hear from him. Jeff Folger stated he asked John to review and comment on the land two months ago. Robert Dickinson asked if the property was where the Crosstown Trail would go. The answer was no. Vote passed 4 to 2: Jeff Folger, Joe Kennedy, Pat Botteron and Sue Larsen voting Yes; Roy Normen and Herb Asplund voting No. Roy Normen voiced disappointment in the vote and hopes the Town Council will hear the concerns.

Jeff Folger moved to have the "OSTF recommend to the Town Council the purchase of the Duck Pond." Joe Kennedy seconded the motion. Herb Asplund said it is a very large parcel. The motion passed and the vote was unanimous.

Minutes of the June meeting were accepted. Joe Kennedy abstained since he was not at the meeting.

Public Participation

None.

Correspondence

Joe Kennedy said September would be the next meeting of SWALPAC.

Pat Botteron reported that Ken Sek's group worked on the water chestnuts at Mill Pond.

New Business

None.

Other Business

Herb Asplund asked if the August meeting was necessary. Pat Botteron said it is easier to cancel a meeting than to call a special meeting. Pat Botteron said that we could review the Master Plan again before we send it to the Town Council.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 2, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen