

Open Space Task Force Minutes

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM

December 7, 2020

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

Public participants: Director of Parks & Recreation Ray Favreau, Mayor Andrew Paterna

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.

Public Participation

Mayor Paterna spoke on supporting the purchase of the 17.8 acre Scantic River Property. The Boy Scouts are willing to sell the property to South Windsor for \$1. The only restriction being put forth is allowing the residents of East Windsor to use the property. Mayor Paterna said we already do this so it would not preclude the purchase of the property.

Herb Asplund thought the Land Trust owned a parcel nearby. Jeff Folger presented a map up for the Task Force to see showing the State-owned land and the Land Trust land. Roy Normen would like to see the State take over this parcel. South Windsor would need an easement over the junk yard land. Victory Outreach owns the land in the middle.

Currently the Town Manager has not given permission to access the property.

Minutes

The minutes of November 2, 2020 were accepted as written.

Correspondence

Chair Pat Botteron reported that Louise Evans is now at Riverside in East Hartford and is not doing as well as hoped.

Town Councilor Karen Lydecker will not be able to attend.

Sue Larsen moved to consider Item 7 before Item 6. Betty Warren seconded the motion.

New Business

Jeff Folger moved to recommend to the Town Council that South Windsor purchase the Gallivan property (186 Foster Street). Betty Warren seconded the motion.

Roy Normen wanted to know if the corners of the property touched the existing open space. Jeff Folger showed the map of the property abutting existing open space. There is a tobacco shed on the property. Betty Warren said she knows the intent of the property owners is to preserve the land as farming or open space. Bill Flagg stated, as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, that the schools are full and a moratorium on housing is being considered. Jeff Folger stated there is pressure to sell the property and if it did become a subdivision, 50% could become open space. Any housing moratorium would only be temporary.

The vote was unanimous to send a favorable recommendation to the Town Council.

The 2021 OSTF meeting calendar was discussed and it was agreed to move the November meeting date to the Monday after the election to November 8, 2021.

Ray Favreau, Director of Parks and Recreation, was in attendance to listen and partake in the discussion regarding 93 and 99 Dart Hill Road. There are two parcels, one of which is small and if sold separately would need an easement. The parcels would extend Town land to the Eversource ROW for a possible pedestrian/bike trail. The parcels would also connect to town trails. It has been on the market for awhile but the market is opening up again. OSTF has not received permission to have access to the land yet. The Task Force is enthusiastic about the land and Director Favreau will bring this to the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on December 9th.

The next meeting will be January 4, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen

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