

## Open Space Task Force Minutes

July 12, 2021

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

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:35.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

### **Public Participation**

None.

### **Minutes**

The minutes were accepted as written.

### **Correspondence and Reports**

Roy Norman wanted to discuss the Willow Brook property. At this point in time, we are several millions of dollars apart. Some were not upset since we would get 50% of the land because it would be under the Open Space Subdivision of Planning & Zoning. John Caldwell said the park land was very valuable. The appraiser did the work based on just the value of the land vs the value associated with the paths, green areas. This Park is 84 acres which will mean a lot of maintenance. Pat Botteron said we had about 3.5 million dollars in the fund. Herb Asplund felt that Mayor Paterna, as our liaison at this meeting, should report to the council, that we support the purchase of Willow Brook. Several members felt that we should not do that at this time since we have had no formal request to express our opinion.

John Caldwell reported that the tree budget is gone due to the extreme storms we have had recently. RYE Street cost \$15,000. 3 large trees were taken down on Wood Pond. There is a mess on the Open Space due to all the down trees.

Pat Botteron explained that she would be away for several weeks and if there is a meeting in August, John would chair.

Roy Norman expressed his gratitude for our concern over the loss of Nancy.

### **New Business**

The task force rated the Wagon Shed property on 155 Griffin Road. The task force highly recommends the town council approve the purchase of this property. There is a spring fed pond which could be filled with trout for fishing. There are 2 vacant houses which could be sold, as is, to offset some of the cost. This property is on the master plan and rated highly in that category. This property is under pressure for

development. The area is overgrown but has a lot of potential as open space. There is water but no sewer so there would have to be one acre lots.

Roy Noman motioned to recommend the Town Council buys the property. Jeff Folger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Joe Kennedy was thanked for all the hard work he has done in talking to the owners of the property. It was several years of discussions to get to this point.

Barton Park has been renamed to John T Mitchell Park.

### **Old Business**

None

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next meeting will be August 2, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen