

Open Space Task Force Minutes

October 4, 2021

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, Joe Kennedy, Bill Flagg, Karen Lydecker-TC, Jeff Folger, George Caye

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:30.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Public Participation

None.

Minutes

The minutes were accepted.

Correspondence and Reports

Joe Kennedy reported that SWALPAC was reviewing their bylaws. Agricultural Commission will probably be the new name. There has been an offer on the Christmas Tree Farm.

Pat Botteron said the water chestnut issue is under control. There are still some but less than in previous years. Mayor Paterna has tried 3 times to get an attorney from Kahn, Kerensky and Cappossela to speak on development rights. Karen Lydecker is familiar with the firm and will try to contact them. At the 175th Anniversary Celebration, Pat had contact with the Girls Scouts and they are looking for a project to do.

New Business

Open Space Task Force was asked to review Willowbrook Golf Course on 124 Brookfield St. Jeff Folger will send Tim Shepard a copy of the memorandum he wrote on the property for our evaluation. The rating sheet was done with one of the highest ratings we have seen in many years. The task force considered the active and passive activity that could be done on the property. Open Space money could not be used for buildings so funding would have to be split between town and open space. The parcel falls under open space subdivision so approximately 41 houses with 3 access roads could be built.

Jeff Folger motioned "The Open Space Task Force highly recommends the purchase of Willowbrook Golf Course on 124 Brookfield St". Herb Asplund seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Bill Flagg questioned whether or not the Town Council really listens to us. Herb Asplund responded that there were many times it was evident they did listen. We are only an advisory board.

Old Business

Karen Lydecker reported that the Town Council would go into executive session on the Strong Road parcels.

Karen Lydecker asked how much money is in the Open Space fund. Pat Botteron will get the exact number from Michelle Lipe but believes it is around \$3,500,000.

Jeff Folger said there was no information on the Scantic Road property.

Other Business

The next meeting will be November 1, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen

