

Open Space Task Force Minutes

March 7, 2022

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Sue Larsen, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, Joe Kennedy, Bill Flagg, Marek Kozikowski-TC, Jeff Folger, George Caye, Bart Pacekonis, Barbara Kelly

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:33.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Pat asked for a moment of silence in memory of Betty Osbourne and Betty Warren. Both were long time members of OSTF.

Public Participation

None.

Minutes

The minutes were accepted.

Correspondence and Reports

Joe Kennedy handed out a summary of the Agricultural Commission report. Joe reported that a letter to the Town Council was sent discussing money for development rights on the flood plain zone owned by Raymond and Burgdorf.

Jeff Folger discussed the hand outs sent to the members of the task force. Barbara Kelly wanted to know what "No to the town" meant. It usually means no to the money that was offered by the town. Bart Pacekonis asked how the offer was determined. It is the appraisal value. Bart would like to see a list of targeted properties and those withdrawn. Jeff and Pat will work on it. Barbara asked how long the open space subdivision is protected. It is 99 years.

Pat reported that there may be a bench in memory of Bob and Betty Warren. Donations would be welcome. John Caldwell said he would take care of the bench. Jeff will get the wording for the plaque.

Pat gave a historical summery. We began as a temporary committee in 1994. Our first Master Plan was in 2001. The task force inventoried targeted properties and assured the property owners that eminent domain would not be used. This is a voluntary program for owners to sell, donate or use development rights.

New Business

Jeff went over the map. Parcels in blue are added since we could get open space subdivision open space. Marek Kozikowski asked whether we ever got counter offers. Jeff said the town manager would

be the one to ask. Do we ever cold call? The owners contact us.

Bill Flagg asked if there was any money coming into the fund. There is still \$3.5 mil in the fund. Pat said the only money is when we have a referendum.

Roy Normen suggested we look at these properties to see if we need another referendum. Herb reminded everyone that there can be no development on the property if referendum money is going to be used. Pat said the New Firehouse on West Road used referendum money with the intent that when the Sullivan Avenue property was sold, \$750,000 would be paid back.

Roy said that Walk and Wheels has a master plan that we should consider integrating with ours. Jeff will look into it.

Barbara would like a list of properties by priority. Marek would like a short summary of each property. We need a better definition of the priority so maybe more categories would help. We need a better definition of what we want the property for.

The discussion turned to open space subdivision. Pat said we don't pay for subdivision open space. John suggested we gift or abandon small areas that have to be maintained.

Jeff said we all should look over the map by the next meeting and bring forward any new properties we feel should be added by the next meeting. The property behind the town garage will added.

Other Business

The next meeting will be April 4, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen

