

Open Task Force Minutes
August 1, 2016

Attendance: John Caldwell, Herb Asplund, Jeff Folger, Louise Evans, Sue Larsen, Pat Botteron, Roy Normen, Betty Warren, Andy Paterna, Michael Gantick

The meeting was opened by Chairman Pat Botteron at 5:37 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Public Participation

None.

The minutes were accepted.

Correspondence/Reports

Pat Botteron brought in water chestnut given to her by Steve Lewis. The plant stops photosynthesis and therefore dangerous to the environment.

Herb Asplund reported on the death of Larry Randoli, a longtime member of the Land Trust.

John Caldwell reported that due to the lack of rain, there was little mowing of the grass. It was healthier for the fields. There is a functioning in-ground greenhouse at the community gardens on Avery Street. Andy Paterna is working with students there. The bids on the Barton property are higher than anticipated. The Wapping Fair is still slated to open there next year. The tree stumps are gone and the wildflowers look good. There is a beetle farm on the property. The shed may be moved to the Priest Property. It is not rodent tight.

Mike Gantick talked about the mountain lions in CT. Several asked if there were any in Wapping Park. Not sure.

New Business:

The group discussed the Hayes Property. A map was handed out. The owners want to sell the property to the town. There was much discussion on whether or not we needed to walk the property. Most of the members have been familiar with this property for many years. It has been used for sledding and other winter sports. Everyone agreed it was highly desirable, a priority property, and it is valuable because of its proximity to Nevers Park.

Herb Asplund motioned “I move to declare this property highly desirable and a letter should be drafted to the Town Manager stating such.” Betty Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Items that could be listed in the letter are: the property could be used for active recreation (winter sports), could be leased for haying, and proximity to Nevers Park could be beneficial for expansion.

Andy Paterna said three families are willing to talk to the town about development rights. There are families that want a 3rd party to go out and review properties to make sure contracts are abided by. The town council is reviewing a possible referendum for SWALPAC in November. Approximately 2 million dollars for agricultural use only.

Old Business

No report on the Nelson property. The Koboski property will not be considered for development rights but possibly an easement.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue W. Larsen
Secretary