

## Open Space Task Force Minutes

Amended October 3, 2016

September 12, 2016

Attendance: Pat Botteron, Louise Evans, Betty Warren, Herb Asplund, Roy Normen, Sue Larsen, Jeff Folger, Bart Pacekonis, Andy Paterna, George Caye

Guests: Joe Williams and Andy Cole from the Toli Brothers

Chair Pat Botteron opened the meeting at 5:30.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance.

The minutes of the August meeting were accepted.

There was no Public participation.

### **Correspondence /Reports**

Betty Warren reported that there would be a public hearing on September 27<sup>th</sup> concerning the Community Garden on Deming Street.

Pat Botteron reported that the removal of the water chestnut has halted for the year. The water will be tested because blue/green algae is toxic. There is a right of way to get to the water but it is small and not clearly defined so it has been privately mowed. Betty feels that we should start to send letters to owners that are violating the rules by mowing. This is one of the reasons OSTF was formed. Pat Botteron will contact the owner and say that the town has access rights for water crafts.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Joe Williams and Andy Cole from Toll Brothers presented the Graham Road Open Space Subdivision. It has 45 lots and it has been targeted for 50% open space. There will be 14 acres in the middle which can be town owned or turned over to an HOA. The land has been farmed for over 3 decades and pesticides have been used. The plan is to remove the top layer and put the soil on Graham Street to create a berm.

Bart Pacekonis and Betty Warren removed themselves from the discussion because the application will be going before Planning & Zoning and Inland Wetlands.

Louise Evans and Andy Paterna spoke about keeping the land as farming because the trend is for homeowners to grow food near their homes. A hydroponic greenhouse could be put on the land. The

types of plants could be ones that assimilate pesticides such as pumpkins. This should all be part of the plan before the sale of homes.

There is a water detention basin on the Graham Road open space.

The land is on the Open Space Master Plan.

The walk will be on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Heritage Day is on October 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Set Up – Roy Normen

9:00 – 10:00 Betty Warren

2:00 - Louise Evans

Jeff Folger will try to update the book.

Andy Paterna spoke on development rights. Connecticut appraises the land at about \$3,000 per acre. A good aspect is that it maintains the character of the neighborhood. The State is looking at South Windsor because we have been doing a lot of positive things in this area.

With the Brewery being built on the Woodcock property, are we going to get our money back from the purchase of the firehouse land? We need to discuss this with Councilor Riley.

### **Other Business**

The South Windsor Land Conservation Trust has received 15 acres from the Wisneski family on Ellington Road which abuts Lawrence Road Park. This creates a greenway from Dart Hill Road to Dzen Hill.

Elections:

Roy Normen nominated Pat Botteron for Chairman. Herb Asplund seconded. The vote was unanimous. Herb Asplund nominated Louise Evans as Vice Chairman. Bart Pacekonis seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Bart Pacekonis nominated Sue Larsen as Secretary. Herb Asplund seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The bylaws were reviewed and there are no changes. A change to the ordinance will be brought up at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 3, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue W. Larsen, Secretary