

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

May 1, 2017

8:00 p.m.

South Windsor Town Council

PURPOSE: To receive citizen input on the Proposed Purchase of Open Space on Sand Hill Road and Nevers Road (Collins Sledding Hill)

Mayor Mirek called the Public Hearing to order at 8:00 p.m.; and requested that the Clerk of the Council read the call of the meeting (a copy of which is attached hereto, **Exhibit A**). There were approximately eighteen (18) people present in the audience.

Mayor Mirek asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to speak.

Mrs. Pat Botteron a representative of the Open Space Task Force came before the Town Council and explained that that back on August 10, 2016 the Open Space Task Force walked and rated the Hay Property (Collins Sledding Hill). A memo was sent to the Town Manager on August 1, 2016 with a recommendation that the Town acquire this property, as shown in attached **Exhibit B**.

Mr. Roy Normen, Homestead Drive stated that there have been a number of referendums passed for the purchase of open space and agricultural land. This has allowed funds to be available to purchase properties such as this. This property has been high on the Town's list to acquire. Mr. Normen urged the Town Council to approve this purchase.

Mr. Peter DeMallie, 35 Peterson Way spoke in favor of acquisition of the property. Mr. DeMallie felt this property should be on the highest level of any potential acquisition of open space in South Windsor. The property is well used, highly visible and the Town should strongly consider the purchase of this property.

Mr. Robert Dickinson, 19 Birch Road came forward and urged the Town Council to accept this property. The property has been greatly utilized in the past and would offer the Town many benefits for future uses.

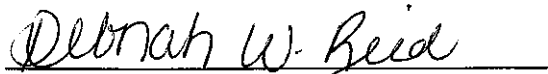
Mayor Mirek asked for a Straw Vote, the results of which were as follows:

Those supporting the proposed purchase of open space on Sand Hill Road and Nevers Road (Collins Sledding Hill): 15

Those opposed the proposed purchase of open space on Sand Hill Road and Nevers Road (Collins Sledding Hill): 0

The public hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council



OFFICE
OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL

Received April 28, 2017 @ 11:00 a.m.
Don J. Austin ATC

Town of South Windsor

1540 SULLIVAN AVENUE • SOUTH WINDSOR, CT 06074-2786
AREA CODE 860/644-2511
FAX 860/644-3781

Exhibit A

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL INQUIRER

April 27, 2017

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Notice is hereby given that the South Windsor Town Council has set Monday, May 1, 2017, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the South Windsor Town Hall, 1540 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, Connecticut, as the time and place for a public hearing to receive citizen input on the proposed purchase of open space on Sand Hill Road and Nevers Road (Collins Sledding Hill).

Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 25th day of April 2017.

Attested to by:

Deborah W. Reid
Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

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Attested to by:
Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

Journal Inquirer
April 27, 2017

TO: Matthew B. Galligan, Town Manager

FROM: Pat Botteron, Chair. Open Space Task Force

DATE: August 10, 2016

RE: Hay Property (Collins Sledding Hill), Nevers and Sand Hill Roads

This property was reviewed and rated by the Open Space Task Force at the August 1, 2016 meeting. This property is being proposed for Town acquisition by the Hay family and is known as the Collins Sledding Hill. The property is 18.1 acres with 585 linear foot access on Sand Hill Road and 700 linear foot access from Nevers Road and a small access way from Collins Lane. Plum Gully brook is present along the eastern (Nevers Rd) property frontage. A foot bridge built by the Town is present to cross on to the property from Nevers Road. It is situated across the streets by other Town owned land (Nevers Road Park and across from the South Windsor Police Department). There are no structures on this property.

There is currently agriculture use on this land. About one fifth of this parcel is treed (especially from the Collins Lane entrance) with remnant Christmas trees. The property is comprised of varying degrees of sloping land, suitable for sledding or cross country skiing. There has been a long history of the Town's use of the land for sliding and thus it has become known as the Sledding Hill.

There is high likelihood a developer would quickly buy up this land if it came on the market. The Town is fortunate that it has been given the first option to acquire the property given that it has had a high priority for acquisition in our Open Space Plan which is incorporated into the Town's Plan for Conservation and Development.

This piece of land is in our Open Space Master Plan as land to be preserved. The Open Space Task Force was very enthusiastic when this parcel came before them and unanimously recommends it for Town acquisition due to potential for development. It is also valued for its agriculture, historic, passive recreation, scenery/vista and buffering/screening.

Please feel free to contact me.