

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Town of Colchester Board of Finance Meeting Minutes June 15, 2020 – Virtual Meeting – 6:30 PM SPECIAL MEETING

(All items on this agenda are subject to possible action.)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rob Tarlov, Michael Hayes, Mike Egan, Andreas Bisbik

Andrea Migliaccio, Bernie Dennler **MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

OTHERS PRESENT: CFO Maggie Cosgrove, First Selectman Mary Bylone, Wetlands Enforcement

Officer Jay Gigliotti, Tax Collector Michelle Wyatt.

***All members and citizens were present via Zoom webinar

- 1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tarlov called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Special Meeting 6/8: M. Hayes motioned to approve the special meeting minutes from June 8, 2020, seconded by B. Dennler. R. Tarlov said Item 3. Citizens Comments should be amended to show that citizens spoke both in favor of the budget and against. A. Bisbikos motioned to amend the original motion to approve the special meeting minutes of June 8 making the noted change, seconded by A. Migliaccio. Vote was unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.
- 3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Citizens spoke in opposition to an increase in the budget citing that there is a high unemployment rate, there will be a surplus in the BOE budget this year that could be used to offset costs, and citizens not being able to vote. Additional citizens spoke in favor of the budget and said that the BOE has had sizable reductions and general funds should be used to offset any increase. There was support for the DEEP Grant application for open space.
- 4. CORRESPONDENCE: Attached
- 5. ENDORSEMENT OF CT DEEP GRANT APPLICATION (Open Space Lands &

Watershed Program): J. Gigliotti gave a presentation on a grant opportunity to acquire 65 acres of open space referred to as the Sablitz property. The grant being applied for would be \$161,000. Matching funds of \$60,000 would be taken from the Open Space Fee in Lieu and Land Acquisition accounts. Any additional costs, such as those for closing costs and program-related expenses, will be taken out of the Open Space accounts as well. The property would be passive recreational use. Designating the land as an open space will help to protect the endangered species that live there. M. Egan motioned to endorse the submission of a grant application to the CT DEEP Open Space & Watershed Lands Acquisitions program; if awarded

the Town shall carry out all contractual requirements to utilize the awarded grant funds together with existing town open space funds, to complete the acquisition of 65 vacant acres on Route 16 known as 4W-09 Lot 013-000. Motion seconded by A. Bisbikos. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. BOF BUDGET DISCUSSION:

- a. Revenue Discussion: Last year there was not enough money in the debt service fund to keep the debt service line item in the budget level with the prior year, as was represented to the voters when the school project was approved. After last year's increase, over \$900,000 was received after selling bonds for the WJJMS project. R. Tarlov proposed that now that we had received that money that we should move additional money from debt services to offset the two years that the budget was higher than represented to the voters. M. Cosgrove said there is \$299,999 that is already being used from the debt service fund to keep debt services flat with last year. The financial advisor agreed the debt services should be kept at the higher amount. With having to bond the Senior Center, and talk of bonding the fire department apparatus and recreational field improvements, debt services need to be kept in mind. Using the \$299,999 leaves a balance of \$699,000 in debt service fund. R. Tarlov asked if unassigned funds can be moved to debt services. He asked if it was better to use fund balance for mill rate relief, which is not listed as an appropriate use in the Policy, or if it was better to use it to repay debt which is listed as appropriate. M Cosgrove stated she felt that using it for mill rate would be viewed more positively. M. Cosgrove reminded the Board that any funds not expended this year will go into the general fund. It is better to use general funds to offset the budget increase, as we have positioned ourselves very well to be able to do that. M. Egan said he is in favor of using the money from the general fund due to the past prudent efforts of the board in building the general fund to what it is today. Debt services should not be used due to the upcoming projects being contemplated. R. Tarlov asked if ambulance revenue should be adjusted down as it is below budget in April. M. Cosgrove said due to Covid, people were more skeptical about calling an ambulance or going to the hospital. She does not believe the revenue should be decreased for next year. Norwich tuition is less with the same number of students but at a lower tuition rate. Building fees collected have increased this year, R. Tarlov asked if the revenue for those would increase for next year. M. Cosgrove was not able to make that determination without further consulting with the Town Planner.
- b. 2020-2021 Budgets Discussion and Possible Action: R. Tarlov saw where a BOE member stated the BOF made the policy on use of general funds for situations such as this year. He clarified that the policy was actually created for the opposite reason and was to avoid using fund balance to lower the mill rate. The current mill rate increase without fund balance would be approximately \$40 on the median assessed house, not the intent of how the BOF members felt the fund balance should be used when the policy was created in 2010 and then amended in 2012, when the permitted uses for mill rate relief were removed. He agrees with a previous comment made by M. Hayes that a \$40 increase is not going to make a difference in the ability to pay for someone in financial hardship. The deferral program is in place to help. The same BOE member also said that towns that have healthy fund balances get less money from the state, that has not proven to be true. M. Cosgrove said the \$314,000 needed to offset the budget might not end up even having to be used. A. Bisbikos motioned to set the town budget

at \$15,155, 865, a zero increase, seconded by B. Dennler. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**

M. Egan motioned to set the Board of Education budget at \$41,316,610, seconded by M. Hayes. R. Tarlov wished to clarify that as a member he would like to vote to keep the budget at zero but as a chairman, it is his job to try and bring opposing sides together and reach an agreement. As the chair, he does not feel he should be forcing a tie for a budget that has been brought down so much from the original increase. M. Hayes, M. Egan, B. Dennler, and R. Tarlov voted in favor. A. Migliaccio and A. Bisbikos were opposed. **MOTION CARRIED**. R. Tarlov said we cannot wait until the next budget season to begin discussions on next year and offsetting this year's use of fund balance,capital spending deferred, and reserves used this year, we could be looking at a 3% increase without contractual and cost of living increases. A. Bisbikos asked to start the discussions at the beginning of the fiscal year.

c. Set Mill Rates-

- i. **Motor Vehicle:** M. Hayes motioned to set the motor vehicle mill rate at 32.84, using \$314,000 from the general fund, seconded by M. Egan. Vote was 5-0 with R. Tarlov abstaining. **MOTION CARRIED**
- ii. Real Estate and Personal Property: B. Dennler motioned to set the real estate and personal property mill rate at 32.84 using \$314,000 from the general fund, seconded by A. Migliaccio. Vote was 5-0 with R. Tarlov abstaining. MOTION CARRIED

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- **a.** Tax Collector: M. Wyatt presented her report for the month of May 2020. Collection rate is 98.68%. She believes this will go up slightly. There have been 20 applications for the Deferred Program.
- **b. Finance:** M. Cosgrove provided the Board with an overview of revenue and expenditures through May 31, 2020, along with a general fund revenue comparison for fiscal year 19-20 to fiscal year 18-19.

8. FIRST SELECTMAN

- a. Transfers: None
- b. First Selectman's Report: M. Bylone reported that the positive Covid cases in Colchester are 35. Town Hall opened to the public last Monday. People are required to have their temperature checked upon entering. Next week they will no longer have to do that. Fields will start opening up for organized sports, as well as the skate park and concession stand. Park and Rec will be running the concession stand this year. Some events will start being held on the green. Halls Hill, Paper Mill bridge, and Eversource construction are ongoing. There will be no in-person Town meetings until after Labor Day. R. Tarlov asked about exploring the use of Zoom, or a similar source, to be used once in-person meetings start again, as it makes it easier for citizens to participate. M. Bylone said that she has been having a discussion with Novus to identify the equipment needed to do that and is trying to figure out how to provide closed captioning.

- 9. LIAISON REPORTS: M. Egan Commission on Aging The Senior Center continues to reach out to the senior population and is looking at the center potentially opening back up in September. The Senior Center Building Committee is having a special meeting this week to discuss the Owner's Rep bid packages. The architect has begun to show them some designs.
- **10. ADJOURNMENT:** A. Bisbikos motioned to adjourn, seconded by A. Migliaccio. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Tarlov adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dawn LePage, Clerk

Attachments:

Correspondence

Open Space Grant Application information

CORRESPONDENCE: BOF Meeting 06/15/2020

To: Colchester BoF

From: James D. McNair III

Date: June 7, 2020

Re: Vote on BoE Budget proposal

I have followed the various changes to the BoE budget before you take your vote. I would like to offer my insights that you might find useful. In my past, my training was to review budgets. Financial officers would offer their estimates. My job was to find out how fat of a pencil was used to develop those estimates. I understood no one wanted to get burnt by the unexpected. Yet, some financial officers were overly conservative.

I can say based upon reviewing the audits, our CFO tends to use a fat pencil. This seems especially true since 2014 regardless of the number of referendums that reduced the BoE budget. As a result, I see no reason why this year's budget estimates are will be any less conservative. Therefore, I tend to tune out any comments "not one dollar can come out of this budget".

#				BOE
refs	yes	no	total	surplus
3	1,576	1,511	3,087	\$80,085
4	1,989	1,404	3,393	\$15,918
1	1,144	429	1,573	\$1,088
1	1,440	683	2,123	\$65,922
1	1,245	1,177	2,422	\$40,824
1	852	827	1,679	\$30,013
3	1,637	1,210	2,847	\$56,602
1	1,211	1,163	2,374	\$41,580
3	1,399	1,395	2,794	\$203,792
4	1,394	940	2,334	\$111,665
2	1,657	1,210	2,867	\$145,882
1	1,571	1,448	3,019	\$186,648
1	1,277	651	1,928	\$152,297(a)
1	1,100	757	1,857	\$182,045
	refs 3 4 1 1 1 3 4 2 1 1	refs yes 3 1,576 4 1,989 1 1,144 1 1,440 1 1,245 1 852 3 1,637 1 1,211 3 1,399 4 1,394 2 1,657 1 1,571 1 1,277	refs yes no 3 1,576 1,511 4 1,989 1,404 1 1,144 429 1 1,440 683 1 1,245 1,177 1 852 827 3 1,637 1,210 1 1,211 1,163 3 1,399 1,395 4 1,394 940 2 1,657 1,210 1 1,571 1,448 1 1,277 651	refs yes no total 3 1,576 1,511 3,087 4 1,989 1,404 3,393 1 1,144 429 1,573 1 1,440 683 2,123 1 1,245 1,177 2,422 1 852 827 1,679 3 1,637 1,210 2,847 1 1,211 1,163 2,374 3 1,399 1,395 2,794 4 1,394 940 2,334 2 1,657 1,210 2,867 1 1,571 1,448 3,019 1 1,277 651 1,928

(a) \$977,297 less \$825,000 contingency adjustment

Second, the public should understand the BoE budget is an estimate. Budget cuts are really reductions in the estimates. To say cuts will reduce services and programs is not necessarily true.

Lastly, I feel it is necessary to commend Chairman Tarlov for his leadership, courage, and integrity. As an ex-BoF member and private citizen, we did not always agree. Yet, my respect for him grew over the years. He always kept an open ear. He always tried to find a diplomatic solution for compromises. He always looked out for the best interest of the whole community and not just some.

June 5, 2020

Board of Finance, Colchester C/O Robert Tarlov RE: Colchester Youth Services Board of Finance,

As a Colchester resident and parent of two students (one in high school and one in middle school), I feel that Youth Services is extremely valuable to this community. Both of my children participate and look forward to the programs/ services offered. They have enjoyed the fun activities/trips as well as benefited from the programs that allow them to give back to the community. Further, Youth Services grants them the opportunity to connect with friends, make new friends and gain new experiences.

With that said, I would like to see a continuation of the amount of programs offered and strongly encourage the board to renew a budget that will preserve the positions of both full-time Program Coordinators.

Best regards,

Kia Poindexter Barnett

From: I.pasternak < lpasternak@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 1:32 PM

To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Town and BoE budget

I am in favor of passing both budgets as they with the slight increases to both budgets.

Linda Pasternak 636 Westchester Rd, Colchester, Ct.

From: LYNN < lymagoo@comcast.net> Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:00 PM

To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: BOE budget

Board of Finance,

Thank you for your service to the town of Colchester. I am writing to please ask you to vote through the .4 BOE budget. We have lived in town since 2001. My husband and I have always voted yes in support of the town and BOE budgets. We are disappointed we do not get to vote this year. However we sincerely hope you take our voice, and the many yes voters into consideration.

Please vote yes to a .4 increase. We need a budget soon so that our Superintendent and Administrators can begin planning for what lies ahead.

Sincerely, Lynn Goodwin

From: Jim&Liza Ringuette < jimandlizaringuette@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2020 5:06 PM

To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov> **Subject:** In support of the .4% increase to the BOE budget

Good afternoon,

I am writing in support of the .4% increase to the BOE budget. During this stressful and very uncomfortable time, I have witnessed our dear teachers rise to the challenge of providing much needed long distance support and education to our youth, many of whom are especially vulnerable due to the isolating nature of this pandemic. Please do not put any additional burdens on our educators by further cutting the budget. Colchester Public Schools are not only dedicated to the education of our youth, but are also a cornerstone to the well being of Colchester's youth. The work of our educators and staff can not succeed without support and proper funding from our tax payers.

Respectfully, Elizabeth Ringuette 9 O'Connell Road

From: James McNair <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:33 PM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Suggestion for meeting

Rob,

It will be helpful for the BOF to issue a document at your meeting the 15th. While a lot of information was discussed, it's hard to follow and write notes.

Upon approval how much actual belt tightening occured?

How much in one shot savings, debt service reductions and gfb transfers covered largest labor increase in history.

What would be mill rate increase in following year once one shots no longer there?

The public needs to understand we are not getting a free lunch for no tax increase next FY.

Be well,

James

From: johnbarn <johnbarn@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:29 AM

To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: approve of budget

I understand that there is no public vote/referendum on the budget this year. However, I just want to let it be known that I support the Town and Education budgets as drafted.

Thank you.

John Barnowski

From: Marycia Stefanowicz <maryciapt@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:55 AM

To: Colchester Town Budget <townbudget@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: In support of the education budget

Board of Finance

I am a Colchester resident writing in support of the .4%mill rate increase for the Education budget. In these changing times I feel the last thing that is needed is cuts to the school. Children have had enough things cut from their lived these past few months. Let's allow them to get back their school work and activities with as much support as needed during these changing times. Let's make sure the administrators and teachers have what they will need to provide quality education and after school activities under possible new guidelines. If I were to vote I would vote yes for both the Education and Town budget.

Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards Marycia Malloy

From: HAROLD CLARK harleyfrostysnowman@yahoo.com

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 7:33 AM

To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Budget

Dear Chairman as a Tax Payer in Colchester for MY Life I would Request a Zero Tax Increase on Both BOE and the BOS with NO Salary Increase

Sincerely Harold B Clark

From: Lynn Stewart < lwarrenstewart@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 10:32 AM

To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov> **Cc:** Dave Stewart <tachikara@sbcglobal.net>

Subject: Budget Vote

Dear Chairman Tarlov,

As taxpayers in Colchester for 20+ years, we strongly believe that this is NOT a year for a budget or mill rate increase of any kind.

We have three children who have been (are) in the Colchester school system. One is entering her junior year of college, one is graduating as part of the class of 2020, and the third is moving into high school. Over the years, we have been supporter of the BOE budgets, recognizing the need for an excellent education system. We have also been supporters of previous town budgets, knowing that a well run town and infrastructure is vital for the well-being of our community.

That said, this is not a year we can stand behind a budget increase for either the town or the schools. We believe strongly that there should be a ZERO increase in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

We ask that you please take this into consideration as you move towards a budget vote.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards, Lynn and Dave Stewart

From: John Maldonado < johnlynne09@comcast.net>

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 8:27 PM

To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Colchester Budget

As a concerned citizen of Colchester, I am urging you that there should be Zero increase to the upcoming budget until the town residents can vote on this!

Sincerely, John Maldonado Sullivan Rd. Colchester

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:53 AM

To: jmcnair3@comcast.net <jmcnair3@comcast.net>

Cc: Dawn LePage <dlepage@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Re: why was my June 7th letter not included in the June 8th meeting minutes

It was in the agenda package, but I forgot to put Correspondence on the agenda. As it was a special meeting, nothing could be added. It will be included in tonight's minutes.

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance 860-608-4293

From: jmcnair3@comcast.net < jmcnair3@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 5:31 AM

To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: why was my June 7th letter not included in the June 8th meeting minutes

Rob,

I noticed it was not included in the minutes posted in the unapproved June 8th meeting minutes section. Please make sure a motion is made to do so.

Thanks,

James

From: brian.t.smith199@gmail.com <bri>brian.t.smith199@gmail.com >

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:33 AM

To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: This Evening's Budget Vote

Dear Chairman Tarlov,

I have missed the last few Board of Finance budget workshop meetings due to conflicting calls on my schedule. As I understand that the Board of Finance will be meeting this evening to vote on the proposed budgets, and as I have another call scheduled this evening which may, again, cause a conflict, I wanted to reach out to share my thoughts.

As I understand, the town side of the budget stands at a \$0 increase and, while I do not view a "no progress" budget as desirable, I am happy to see that the two positions sought by the fire company remain in the budget. I wish to let you and your colleagues on the board know that I am strongly in favor of approving this budget.

With regard to the Board of Education budget, I am also strongly in favor of approving it as it presently stands. I do not support any further cuts to this budget. I urge you and all of your colleagues to accept it in the spirt of compromise from which it has developed, and send to the town a message of unity which we can all use at this difficult time.

Please accept my thanks for all your efforts, and convey them as well to everyone on the Board of Finance and within both the Town and Board of Education staffs who have worked so hard under trying circumstances this year.

Respectfully,

Brian

Brian T. Smith 12 Broadway Colchester, CT 06415

860.617.8959 brian.t.smith199@gmail.com

From: Merja H Lehtinen <ctmlhr@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:16 AM

To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Oppose increased spending

Dear BoF and Rob,

I adamently oppose any new spending based on a violation of the principles and intent of our laws, and our Charter. No spending above the current level is legal unless authorized by voters.

For the Governor and First Selectwoman to suggest otherwise is specious. The Southern District of the federal courts recently ruled the suspension of gun permits and fingerprinting is unconstitutional. Furthermore the judge quipped no suspension of free speech of Assembly or voting rights are acceptable. Prior to that in 1965, LBJ stated uniquivacably a

Constitutional test or question is not even necessary for voting rights. Suspension even due to an Emergency is illegal. Delay is reasonable. Suspension is wrong.

No vote. No increased spending. Not one dime.

Merja Helen Lehtinen 39 Homonick Road Colchester CT 06415 860-822-3840 ctmlhr@yahoo.com Colchestereditor@gmail.com

From: Les Bassett < lbassett@plimptonhills.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:18 PM

To: Andrea Migliaccio <amigliaccio@colchesterct.gov>; Mike Hayes <mhayes@colchesterct.gov>; Andreas Bisbikos <abisbikos@colchesterct.gov>; Bernard Dennler <BDennler@TownofColchester.onmicrosoft.com>; Mike Egan

<megan@colchesterct.gov>; Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Subject: Please vote no on budget

Dear Colchester Board of Finance,

I am a 23 year resident and father of a graduating senior and an incoming senior. Given the current economic turmoil combined with the fact that voters are being disenfranchised this year by our governor's executive order I ask that you vote no on the budget. A zero increase budget is the responsible choice.

Last month I asked the BOE and later Superintendent Burt about what cost savings have been realized due to the physical shutdown of our schools for 3 months. I never received an answer as to how much but Mr. Burt did acknowledge there were savings and was working calculation them. There must be savings on the Town budget side as well. Given the extent and duration of the shutdown I would expect the savings to be well into the six figures if not over a million dollars. Is there a ballpark number available yet? Of course it would be important to have that to help calculate the mill rate needed to support the 2020 - 2021 budgets.

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Les Bassett

From: Leslie Curtis < lesliescurtis@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 2:37 PM

To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>

Cc: Jay Gigliotti <jgigliotti@colchesterct.gov>; Lisa Hageman <lterrillhageman@comcast.net>; Cathy Shea

<catherine.shea@hotmail.com>

Subject: Support for Town of Colchester's Acquisition of 65 Acres of Open Space on Route 16

To the Colchester Board of Finance:

This email is in support of the project spearheaded by Jay Gigliotti, the town's Wetlands Enforcement Officer, to apply for an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant from the CT DEEP's program which is open to applications submitted thru July 1, 2020.

I am writing this as an individual Board Member of the Colchester Land Trust who is aware that the project proposed by the town's Wetlands Officer to purchase a 65 acre parcel of open space the Pine Brook Greenway on the north side of Route 16 has the enthusiastic support of our organization.

The land under consideration is situated along Pine Brook in a Greenway which was long ago identified as one of the areas worthy of conservation efforts in the Town's original Plan of Conservation and Development. The money held in the town's Open Space Acquisitions funds held by the Town cannot be used for any other purpose than projects such as this one, so applying for a state grant to provide significant additional funding to help the town conserve this property will be a win-win for our civic land conservation goals and efforts.

I do not have the Zoom technology necessary to be able to participate in tonight's Special Meeting of the Board of Finance, but I trust this email will be added to the record in support of the worthiness of this project. I urge you to vote to approve this application for the state open space and watershed grant as presented in the letter from Jay Gigliotti to the Board of Finance on June 11, 2020 to move the project forward to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

Leslie Curtis 110 Cato Corner Road, Colchester, CT



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Website: www.colchesterct.gov

June 11, 2020

To:

Colchester Board of Finance

From: Jay Gigliotti, Wetlands Enforcement Officer

RE:

Planning & Zoning Department Open Space Grant Application

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Department has identified a grant opportunity to leverage existing municipal open space funds to acquire 65 acres of vacant land, to be designated as open space. Acquiring open space land is a major goal identified in the Town's Open Space Plan and Plan of Conservation & Development.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) announced it will be accepting applications for their Open Space & Watershed Lands Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) through July 1, 2020. The program provides financial assistance to municipalities, non-profit land conservation organizations and water companies for acquisition of open space land or watershed protection.

The property subject to this OSWA application was selected by a collaboration of the P&Z Department, the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Conservation Commission, as well as input from the Colchester Land Trust. The property is located on Middletown Road (Route 16) and was chosen due to a number of factors, including but certainly not limited to natural resource protection, location and availability.

On April 13, 2020, the P&Z Department commissioned Buckley Appraisal Services, to perform a "Yellow-Book" appraisal on the selected property. The appraisal indicated the property has a value of \$221,000. The property is currently listed for sale at \$225,000. The owners have agreed to sell the land to the town for \$221,000.

The P&Z Dept. is proposing to utilize \$60,000 from the Open Space Fee in Lieu and Land Acquisition accounts to use as a match for the grant. The amount of the grant application would be \$161,000.

Recommended Motion:

The Colchester Board of Finance endorses the submission of a grant application to the CT DEEP Open Space & Watershed Lands Acquisition program; if awarded the Town shall carry out all contractual requirements to utilize the awarded grant funds together with existing town open space funds, to complete the acquisition of 65 vacant acres on Route 16 known as 4W-09 Lot 013-000.

Attachments:

- -Property Map
- -Greenway Map
- -Property Location Map