



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Website: www.colchesterct.gov

COLCHESTER OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Special Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2023

Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue

Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chairman William Hochholzer, Jr., Ted Fuini, Mary Stevens and Kris Barnard. Town Staff Carol Szymanski. Alexis Devlin attended as an observer and potential Committee member.

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Will Hochholzer called the 1/9/23 meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Citizens Comments: None.
3. Approval Minutes: None.
4. Election of Officers. Commissioners Hochholzer and Fuini both expressed interest in running again for Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively. Chairman Hochholzer handed the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Fuini so the commissioners could discuss the position of Chairman. Commissioner Stevens made the motion to reappoint William Hochholzer as Chairman and Commissioner Barnard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). Chairman Hochholzer stepped back into the position of Chairman. The position of Vice-Chairman was discussed and Commissioner Stevens made the motion and Commissioner Barnard seconded the motion to reappoint Ted Fuini as Vice-Chairman. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).
5. Discussion of three lectures at the library in the spring. The commission discussed the set program and thought that the topics would be of wide interest and would be well attended by the public.
6. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary:
 - A. The Commission discussed the naming of the Sablitz open space at length and determined that a name that reflects the water feature of the property would entice the public to hike the area. The Commission liked the name "PINE BROOK PRESERVE" to reflect the extensive property line of the property with Pine Brook. The Commission also thought a nod to the willingness of the Sablitz family to work with the town to sell the former farm to the town should be acknowledged with a plaque on a boulder near the trail head which provides a bit of history of the years of the working farm and the Sablitz family as the owners of the farm. Commissioner Stevens made the motion and Commissioner Barnard seconded the motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the property be named "PINE BROOK PRESERVE" with a boulder on site near the trail head that acknowledges the Sablitz family and the history of the property as a farm. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).
 - B. Commissioner Barnard made the motion and Commissioner Fuini seconded the motion to accept the 2023 calendar of regular meeting dates. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

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- C. Alexis Devlin was introduced to the Commission as a potential member with interest in land use and real estate. She discussed her background and expressed interest in being a member of the Committee. The members welcomed her interest and participation.
7. Adjournment: Commissioner Stevens made the motion and Commissioner Fuini seconded the motion to end the meeting. Motion passed unanimously (4-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Szymanski