

**Town of Colchester  
Open Space Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting of 10/18/21**

**Members Present:** Chairman Will Hochholzer, Lindsay Floyd, Kris Barnard, BOS Liaison Rosemary Coyle and Town Staff Jay Gigliotti

**Members Absent:** Vice Chairman Ted Fuini, Mary Stevens

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 10/18/21 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm

2. **Citizens Comments:**

No citizen comments, however, a brief discussion occurred on whether Town Boards & Commissions shall return to in person meetings.

3. **Approval of the 9/13/21 - 9/20/21 Meeting Minutes:**

Lindsay Floyd motioned to approve the 9/13/21-9/20/21 OSAC meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

**A. Open Space Preservation Fund**

Jay Gigliotti explained the proposed revisions of Chapter 92 of the Colchester Code was presented to the Board of Selectmen at their 10/7/21 regular meeting. The Selectmen voted in favor of moving the Code revision forward. Initially, it was thought the revision required a town meeting, however, it has been determined that a public forum, followed by a vote of the Board of Selectmen is all that is needed to advance the revisions. Jay Gigliotti will keep the OSAC informed of the date and time of the public forum. The revisions to Chapter 92 would allow the Town to contribute open space funds to qualified preservation projects that do not ultimately result in Town ownership.

**B. Open Space Acquisition- Middletown Road**

Jay Gigliotti explained the Board of Selectmen approved a resolution allowing the First Selectmen to execute all necessary documents to close on the property. This open space acquisition is for property on Middletown Road, subject to an awarded CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant. The Town continues to work with CT DEEP, the owners and other professionals to complete the acquisition. Jay Gigliotti stated he is hopeful the property will close before the end of the year.

**C. Norton Paper Mill Brownfield Grant**

Jim Paggioli, the Town's Public Works Director, has recently retired. Mr. Paggioli was responsible for implementing the brownfield clean-up and remediation grant awarded to the town in 2016 on the former mill site, located at the intersection of Paper Mill Road and Route 149. Jay Gigliotti explained that with

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Mr. Paggioli's departure, the Planning & Zoning Department is picking up the grant where he left off. The grant is fairly detailed and the P&Z Dept. team is working to get up to speed on the status of the mill site, remediation and grant. Recently, the Town has contacted the CT Brownfield program regarding the project and will be meeting with the Environmental consultants to determine where the project's status. Jay Gigliotti explained he is optimistic the project will be able to move forward. Once the site has been remediated, the Norton Park, can be constructed. Jay Gigliotti shall keep the OSAC informed on the progress.

#### **D. Brown's Mill Assessment Grant**

Jay Gigliotti explained the Board of Selectmen adopted a resolution allowing the First Selectmen to execute the necessary documents for the brownfield assessment grant. The grant, shall provide funding for environmental site assessments at a dilapidated mill site on a Comstock bridge Road. The owners of the property have indicated their desire to preserve the property and in order to do must first certify there are no environmental liabilities present. Jay Gigliotti stated that with the resolution in place, the environmental assessment work should hopefully commence shortly. Alta Environmental, a Colchester business located on Broadway, shall be performing the environmental assessment work.

**Any Other Business Deemed Necessary:** None

#### **5. Adjournment**

**Motion made by Kris Barnard to adjourn the Regular 10/18/21 Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Lindsay Floyd. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the October 18, 2021 OSAC Meeting at 6:23pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jay Gigliotti