

**Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, January 11, 2021
6pm Virtual Meeting Held via Zoom
Meeting Minutes**

RECEIVED
TOWN OF COLCHESTER
2021 JAN 14 PM 12:33
W. Hochholzer
CHAIRMAN
TOWN OF COLCHESTER

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

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Ted Fuini

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 1/11/21 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the December 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes:**

Lindsay Floyd motioned to approve the 12/14/20 OSAC meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Mary Stevens. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

A. Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program

Jay Gigliotti explained that he had again been contacted by the sellers of the land subject to the Town's 2020 open space grant application. He explained the sellers are anxious and would like to know what the status of the grant application is. Jay Gigliotti spoke with the CT DEEP regarding the time in which applications would be awarded. Mr. Gigliotti was told they were approx. one month behind and application awards would most likely be announced sometime in late January. Jay Gigliotti is hopeful this is still the case.

B. Farm & Forest Land Preservation Program

At the December 17, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting, the selectmen were presented with a proposal for the Town to develop a program by which the Town could purchase development rights from farm or forest property owners. The purpose of the program is to allow the Town more options in agricultural and open space land preservation. The Board of Selectmen voted to develop an Ad Hoc committee to explore whether this program is a good option for the Town, and if so, how it would be administered. The Selectmen are requesting a representative from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission, Open Space Advisory Committee, Agricultural Commission and the Colchester land Trust be chosen to sit on the Ad Hoc committee. Jay Gigliotti shall be the Town staff liaison to the committee and shall schedule the first meeting when a representative

from each of the identified boards/commissions has been chosen. A number of Connecticut Towns utilize similar programs. The Town of Lebanon operates a farm & forest preservation program and have had great success with it for a number of years. Selectman Coyle explained the process to develop the committee and the charge of the committee once it has been established. The OSAC discussed some ideas on how this type of program could be developed. Several members of the OSAC expressed interest in serving on the Ad Hoc committee. Selectmen Coyle indicated that only one representative from each board is required, however the Ad Hoc meetings will be open to the public and anyone interested can attend. The OSAC discussed who the representative should be.

Mary Stevens motioned to select Chairman Will Hochholzer to serve as the OSAC representative based on his existing knowledge of farm and forest land preservation options. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Chairman Hochholzer stated he will gladly accept the nomination.

5. **Any Other Business Deemed Necessary:** None

6. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Mary Stevens to adjourn the 1/11/21 Regular Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Lindsay Floyd. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the January 11, 2021 OSAC Meeting at 6:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Gigliotti