

**Town of Colchester**  
**Open Space Advisory Committee**  
**Monday, January 15, 2020**  
**Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**

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*Gayle Fuini*  
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TOWN CLERK

**Members Present:** Chairman Will Hochholzer, Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini, Kris Barnard, B.O. Lison Rosemary Coyle and Town Staff Jay Gigliotti

**Members Absent:** Mary Stevens

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 1/15/20 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the December 5, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes:**

Kris Barnard motioned to approve the 12/5/19 OSAC meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

**A. Open Space Advisory Committee Vacancies**

Jay Gigliotti explained that he had spoken with the First Selectman regarding the three current vacancies on the Open Space Advisory Committee. The Town's website provides notice of vacant positions on boards and commissions. The Open Space Advisory Committee is listed as having vacancies on the website as well as many other boards and commissions. Discussion followed as to how to best advertise openings on the OSAC. The committee came to the consensus to have the Chairman place a letter in the Rivereast making potentially interested individuals aware of the available seats open on the committee. Jay Gigliotti will also follow up with the First Selectman regarding the vacancies.

**Motion made by Kris Barnard to authorize the Open Space Advisory Committee Chairman to place a letter in the Rivereast regarding the current vacancies on the committee. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**B. Recognition of Nick Norton**

At the December meeting, past OSAC chairman and longtime Colchester board and commission member, Nick Norton resigned from the committee. The committee discussed a formal recognition of Mr. Norton and Jay Gigliotti brought it to the attention of the First Selectman. The committee asked whether Mr. Norton had received any formal recognition for his years of service to the town. Jay Gigliotti explained he was not aware of any such recognition and will follow-up at his monthly meeting with the First Selectman.

### **C. Scott Hill Road/ Reservoir Road 4-Lot Subdivision.**

During the December OSAC meeting, the committee was presented with a proposed 4-Lot subdivision including 4.24 acres of open space land. The applicant is proposing to transfer the open space land to the Norwich Public Utility company for watershed protection. The proposed open space land directly abuts the reservoir property. The OSAC voted to recommend the transfer of the open space to the utility company with the condition that if they were not interested in receiving the land, the OSAC would then recommend a fee in lieu of the open space land. The Conservation Commission discussed the potential for a fee in lieu of open space at their January meeting. The applicant may be interested in pursuing a fee in lieu as well. Staff nor the applicant has not heard from the Norwich Public Utility Company at this time.

### **D. CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program**

On December 18, 2019, the CT legislative bond commission voted on a number of bond programs for the state. One of the programs was funding for the CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) program. This is a program administered by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and is for municipalities, non-profits and water companies to acquire land for open space or watershed protection. The proposed bond for the OSWA program allocated \$5 Million and was approved. The OSAC discussed the potential for an application to the program and the amount of funds the town has in the open space accounts available to contribute towards an application. The CT DEEP website currently states that applications are not yet being accepted to the OSWA program, but this will change shortly. Jay Gigliotti will keep the committee informed as to the status of the program and shall prepare an open space map for the February OSAC meeting. The map will allow the OSAC to begin strategizing for a potential open space acquisitions.

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

6. **Adjournment**

**Motion made by Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini to adjourn the 1/15/20 Special Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.**

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the January 15, 2020 OSAC Special Meeting at 6:28pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jay Gigliotti