

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, December 5, 2019
Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM
Special Meeting Minutes

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2019 DEC 10 PM 1:21
Gayle Fumman
GAYLE FUMMAN
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: Chairman Will Hochholzer, Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini, Kris Barnard, Mary Stevens, B.S. Liaison Rosemary Coyle and Town Staff Jay Gigliotti

Members Absent: Nick Norton

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 12/5/19 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of September 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

Mary Stevens motioned to approve the 9/9/19 OSAC meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Kris Barnard. Kris Barnard abstained. All other members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

A. Source to Sea

Jay Gigliotti explained the town again participated in the annual Connecticut River Conservancy Source to Sea program on the last Saturday in September. This is the third year in a row the town has participated in the event. On 9/28/19, volunteers from GZA Environmental worked to remove trash and tires from the banks of Jeremy River at the Route 149 Commuter parking lot. 60 Tires and many bags of trash were removed from the area. Through a waste tire collection program, Goodyear Tire Company removed all of the recovered tires. The Town collected and disposed of the trash. Pictures of the collected tires and trash were distributed to the committee members.

This site was cleaned last year during the same program and within a year it was full of garbage again. Town staff also met with representatives from CT DOT and the State Police to discuss potential measures to prevent future dumping in this area. The Salmon River Watershed and the Town sent a joint letter to the volunteers thanking them for their efforts. A press release was also sent to the Rivereast concerning the success of the event.

B. Reservoir Road/ Scott Hill Road 4- Lot Subdivision

The Colchester Conservation Commission has recently received an application for a 4-Lot subdivision located on 14 acres on Reservoir Rd/ Scott Hill Road. The applicant is proposing 4.25 acres of Open Space to be deeded to the Norwich Public Utility Deep River Reservoir.

The subdivision property is not located within a designated greenway, is not located within a CT DEEP Natural Diversity Database area and is not near any other town owned or controlled open space. In the past, the town has approved subdivisions abutting the Deep River Reservoir with open space being transferred to the Norwich Public Utilities for watershed protection.

Before the Conservation Commission votes on the subdivision application, they will be looking for a recommendation from the Open Space Advisory Committee regarding the disposition of the proposed open space. Discussion followed on the proposed open space of the subdivision.

Motion made by Mary Stevens to recommend to the Conservation Commission, the proposed open space of the 4- Lot Reservoir Rd/ Scott Hill Road subdivision, be transferred to the Norwich Public Utility Deep River Reservoir for watershed protection purposes. If the Norwich Public Utility Company does not accept the proposed open space, the OSAC then recommends a "Fee in Lieu" of the open space. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

C. Colchester Land Trust- Bulkeley Hill Road Parking Area

The Colchester Land Trust has recently made an application to the Conservation Commission, for the development of a gravel parking area on their Bulkeley Hill Nature Preserve. The parking area shall be utilized by attendees of conservation events held on the preserve. The parking area shall provide users of the preserve convenient and safe off-street parking. The Land Trust holds numerous events at the preserve.

D. CT DEEP Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program

Working on new, potential open space properties, Jay Gigliotti recently learned that the CT DEEP Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition grant program has been suspended. The Town has made use of this program numerous times in the past and is a strategic platform for funding of open space purchases. There is no indication of when this program will, if ever, be reinstated.

E. Fee in Lieu

Recently, three new subdivisions have been approved by the town. All three of these subdivision were approved with an open space fee in lieu and all three are currently under construction. As the houses are constructed, the open space fees have been collected and deposited into the Open Space Fee in Lieu account. The Fee in Lieu account has steadily built up and now contains slightly less than \$100,000.

5. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary:

A. 2020 Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Jay Gigliotti distributed copies of the proposed OSAC 2020 meeting schedule. He explained that the meetings shall be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm. The only exception to this is the month of September, where the meeting date shall be on the third Monday. All 2020 OSAC meetings shall be held at 6pm.

Motion made by Mary Stevens to accept the 2020 regular meeting schedule of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

B. Election of Officers

Mary Stevens motioned to nominate William Hochholzer as Chairman. There were no other nominations. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

Mary Stevens nominated Ted Fuini as Vice-Chairman. There were no other nominations. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All Members Voted in favor. Motion Carried.

C. Nick Norton Resignation

Jay Gigliotti informed the OSAC that Mr. Nick Norton has recently submitted his resignation from the Open Space Advisory Committee, effective immediately. Mr. Norton has volunteered countless hours to the town for his work on various boards and commissions. He has a rich and diverse knowledge of the town's history and his expertise will be greatly missed. The OSAC discussed ways to officially recognize Mr. Norton for his public Service. Jay Gigliotti shall speak with the First Selectman regarding an official recognition for Mr. Nick Norton.

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Mary Stevens to adjourn the 12/5/19 special meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the December 5, 2019 OSAC special meeting at 6:37pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Gigliotti