

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, February 10, 2020
Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

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COLCHESTER, CT
2020 FEB 11 AM 11:41
Gayle Fuernberg
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: Chairman Will Hochholzer, Mary Stevens, Kris Barnard and Town Staff Jay Gigliotti

Members Absent: Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini, B.O.S. Liaison Rosemary Coyle

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 2/10/20 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the January 15, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes:**

Mary Stevens motioned to approve the 1/15/20 OSAC meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

A. Open Space Advisory Committee Vacancies

Jay Gigliotti explained at the OSAC meeting held in January, the committee authorized the Chairman to place a letter in the Rivereast regarding the vacancies. Chairman Will Hochholzer reviewed the letter with the committee. The letter shall be published in the 2/14/20 edition of the Rivereast.

B. CT DEEP Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program

Jay Gigliotti explained on December 18, 2019, the CT legislative bond commission voted to approve funding for the CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) program. This is a statewide 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 approved bonding amount for the OSWA program is \$5 Million.

As of Friday, 2/7/20, CT DEEP announced it is currently accepting OSWA applications with a submission deadline of June 1, 2020. Jay Gigliotti provided an overview of the OSWA program, highlighting some of the application ranking criteria. The town has utilized this program a number of times in the past, most recently for the purchase of 10 acres located on Dutton Road.

The OSAC discussed the potential for an application to the program, the amount of open space funds available, the process for making an application and several properties currently listed for sale. Jay Gigliotti provided a copy of the Colchester Open Space map for the discussion as well. The OSAC requested Jay Gigliotti to provide a summary of the OSWA ranking criteria for the March OSAC meeting so the committee could determine if a suitable property exists. In addition, Jay Gigliotti shall speak with the Colchester Land Trust to see if there are any properties on their radar for open space preservation.

5. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary: None

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Mary Stevens to adjourn the 2/10/20 Regular Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the February 10, 2020 OSAC Meeting at 6:38pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Gigliotti