

**Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of virtual meeting
Regular Meeting of 4/11/22**

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

Members Absent: Mary Stevens

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Will Hochholzer called the 4/11/22 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the 3/14/22 Meeting Minutes:**

Lindsay Floyd motioned to approve the 3/14/22 OSAC meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Kris Barnard. Kris Barnard abstained. All other members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

A. Middletown Road- Sablitz Open Space Property

Jay Gigliotti explained the Town was able to purchase the property with the assistance from an awarded DEEP Open Space grant. The awarded grant included a number of conditions the Town is required to fulfill. Recently, the program approved the A2 survey the Town completed on the property and required a revised title policy. The policy is currently being revised and will be submitted to the Open Space Program once complete.

At the February OSAC meeting, the Committee voted to recommend the Sablitz property be subject to a wildlife management plan (WMP) developed by UCONN students in the wildlife major program. In 2021, students in the UCONN wildlife major program developed a WMP for the Ruby Cohen Park on McDonald Road. The plan was a comprehensive document which supplied significant information regarding the wildlife and wildlife habitat at the park. It also provided recommendations on how the town could better operate the park so as to least impact wildlife.

The recommendation for a WMP at the Sablitz property was made due to the Town's intentions to conduct improvements to the property so the public could utilize the property for passive recreation purposes. The resulting plan will help guide the town in the park improvements to ensure the wildlife and habitat present on the property would be least impacted.

The UCONN Students have recently completed the WMP for the Sablitz and shall be present an abbreviated summary of the plan to the Colchester Board of Selectmen at the 4/21/22 regular meeting.

B. Brown's Mill- Comstock Bridge Road- Brownfield Assessment Grant

The awarded grant is providing funds to complete a supplemental Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment. All contracts have been executed and next steps include the site testing and investigation. Alta Environmental shall be developing the Site Assessments. The Town is waiting on Alta's availability to commence the work. Once the investigation begins, the assessment documents should be completed within 1 ½ - 2 months.

C. Bigelow Road 2-Lot Resubdivision- Open Space Fee in Lieu

At the March OSAC meeting, the Committee voted to accept a fee in lieu of open space for the two lot resubdivision. Jay Gigliotti explained the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the resubdivision at their first meeting in April, including the open space fee in lieu. The fee shall be paid to the town upon issuance of building permits and certificate of occupancies for each new residence of the resubdivision. The collected open space fees shall be deposited into the Town's open space accounts, to be utilized for future open space purposes.

D. Norton Mill Brownfield Remediation Grant

Jay Gigliotti explained the Planning & Zoning Department continues to work with the CT DECD on the grant. The grant had previously expired and thankfully the department was able to secure an extension. Currently, staff is working to get the expended funds reimbursed and to finalize bid documents. Once reimbursement is complete, the Town can put the project out to bid to complete the work to remediate the site.

5. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary:

Election of Officers:

Chairman Hochholzer stepped down as Chairman, Vice-Chairman Fuini chaired committee for Elections of Chairman.

Motion made by Lindsay Floyd to elect William Hochholzer as Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Kris Barnard. There were no other nominations for Chairman. All members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

William Hochholzer resumed Chairman duties and called for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Motion made by Kris Barnard to elect Ted Fuini as Vice-Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Lindsay Floyd. There were no other nominations for vice-chairman. All members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

Jay Gigliotti Resignation

Jay Gigliotti told the OSAC that he has submitted his resignation from the Town of Colchester. His last day shall be 4/22/22. He expressed gratitude to the Town and stated it was a difficult decision. Mr. Gigliotti has been employed by the Town of Colchester for the past 16 years. The OSAC members and BOS Liaison thanked Mr. Gigliotti for his years of service and wished him best of luck with his new employment.

Adjournment

Lindsay Floyd motioned to adjourn the Regular 4/11/22 Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Chairman Will Hochholzer adjourned the April 11, 2022 OSAC Meeting at 6:52pm
Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Gigliotti