

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, May 11, 2020
6pm Virtual Meeting Held via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

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Members Present: Chairman Will Hochholzer, Mary Stevens, Kris Barnard, Lindsay Floyd, Benjamin Rose, Mary Coyle
and Town Staff Jay Gigliotti

Members Absent: Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 5/11/20 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the March 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes:**

Mary Stevens motioned to approve the 3/9/20 OSAC meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Lindsay Floyd.
All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

A. CT DEEP Open Space & Watershed Lands Acquisition Program Grant (OSWA)

Jay Gigliotti explained the OSAC has discussed this potential grant application for the past several months. The P&Z Department has identified a 65 acre property that properly aligns with the town's open space goals and is currently available. At the last meeting held in March, the OSAC held off on a formal endorsement of a grant application until staff was able to confirm with other land conversation groups that this was best available property for an application to the OSWA program. Jay Gigliotti presented a power point highlighting the OSWA program, the property, benefits of protection and the status of the grant application.

The property is located at the southern end of the Pine Brook Greenway, and is bordered by Pine Brook to the west. The site is currently vacant and forested. Protection of this property shall result in a number of benefits including protection of natural resources, wildlife habitat, watershed quality, ground & surface water. In addition, the property is in proximity to existing open space areas, offers resiliency to climate change, provides for passive outdoor recreation opportunities and preserves the rural character of the area. This is a strategic property for open space acquisition and greenway development.

Motion made by Mary Stevens to endorse the Town's application to the CT DEEP Open Space & Watershed Lands Acquisition Program, for the acquisition of 65 acres on Middletown Road (Route 16), known as Assessor's Map 4W-09 Lot 013-000. Seconded by Lindsay Floyd. Chairman William Hochholzer recused himself from all voting on this item. All other members voted in Favor.
Motion Carried.

5. **Any Other Business Deemed Necessary:**

The OSAC discussed a 7-Lot subdivision located on Chestnut Hill & Kramer Road. At the March OSAC meeting, the subdivision applicant attended the meeting to discuss proposed open space. During the meeting, the OSAC advised the client to seek a method for a fee in lieu of open space as the proposed open space designation was not desirable, publically inaccessible and not located in a strategic area for open space acquisition. Jay Gigliotti informed the commission that the applicant has been working with an appraiser to assign a value to land, in order to determine the fee in lieu. Once the appraisal has been completed, the applicant shall then return to the OSAC, most likely at the June meeting.

6. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Mary Stevens to adjourn the 5/11/20 Regular Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Lindsay Floyd. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the May 11, 2020 OSAC Meeting at 6:29pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Gigliotti