

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, June 10, 2019
Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting Minutes

RECEIVED
COLCHES
2019 JUN 14 PM 9:54
JAY GIGLIOTTI

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

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

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 6/10/19 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of May 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

Mary Stevens motioned to approve the 5/13/19 OSAC meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

A. Middletown Road

Jay Gigliotti explained the Colchester Land Trust connected him with a property owner looking to sell his 65 acres located on Middletown Road. The property fronts on Route 16 and abuts Pine Brook to the east. The property also contains a CT DEEP Natural Diversity Database Area and is located almost entirely within the towns designated Pine Brook Greenway. Jay Gigliotti explained he has been in contact with the property owner regarding the Town's potential interest. A funding program of some type would be required to acquire the property as the current funds available in the open space accounts, will most likely not be able to cover the purchase of the property. Jay Gigliotti explained he is in the very early stages of the process and wanted to know the OSAC was ok with him to move forward. He shall keep the commission updated as discussions continue.

B. UCONN Brownfields Initiative

The work with the UCONN Brownfields program has been completed. The town has received a non-official Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Summary for the two properties entered into the program. The town will be able to utilize these documents in preparation for application to a Brownfields Assessment Program. In addition, the UCONN Brownfields Initiative is conducting a program assisting municipalities in preparing an EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant applications in the fall semester. The town shall be applying to UCONN for enrollment in this program as well. The Assessment grant shall allow the town to conduct the necessary environmental studies, paving the way for the property acquisition.

C. Army Corps of Engineers/ CT Audubon Society

Recently, the town applied to the ACOE/Audubon Society In Lieu Fee grant program. The town's application was to secure funds for the eradication of a 30+ acre stand of phragmites located within the

Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands. Jay Gigliotti explained the application was for approx. \$33,000. At the end of last month, the town was notified that the application was not selected for funding. The notification cited the project had limited potentially to successfully meet the goals and objectives of the ILF program. Jay Gigliotti explained he intends to reapply in the next grant round and revise the application to better meet the goals and objectives.

D. CT DEEP Recreational Trails Program

Jay Gigliotti explained the town was recently awarded two grants from this this program and the funding has been suspended at the state level. At the end of last month, the town was notified that the programs funds had been released. The contract documents are currently being executed. As soon as they are complete, the town shall begin the work associated with these two grants. One grant is for the link trail on Cemetery Road and Church Street and the other is for the development of a master planning document for the Airline Trail.

5. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary: None

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Mary Stevens to adjourn the 5/13/19 meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the June 10, 2019 OSAC meeting at 6:23pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Gigliotti