

**Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Regular Meeting of 9/13/21 continued through Special Meeting of 9/20/21

Members Present: Chairman Will Hochholzer, Vice Chairman Ted Fuini (absent for 9/20/21 special meeting),
Lindsay Floyd, Kris Barnard, BOS Liaison Rosemary Coyle and Town Staff Jay Gigliotti,
Town Planner Matt Bordeaux

Members Absent: Mary Stevens

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 9/13/21 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm

2. **Citizens Comments:** None

3. **Approval of the June 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes:**

Lindsay Floyd motioned to approve the 6/14/21 OSAC meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Kris Barnard. Ted Fuini abstained. All other members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

A. Farm and Forest Preservation Program

Town Planner Matt Bordeaux was present and addressed the committee regarding a proposed initiative to amend Chapter 92 of the Colchester Town Code. Chapter 92 is the section of the code detailing the Open Space Preservation Fund.

Matt Bordeaux explained the proposed amendment would allow the Town to contribute open space funds on open space preservation projects which do not directly result in ownership by the Town. This allows the Town to partner other preservation entities, leveraging the use of Town funds to achieve open space objectives. The code amendment has been drafted by the Town's attorney and provides for a vetting process for potential partners. There is no proposed change to the process in which the funds have historically been expended.

The proposal shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their next regular meeting and staff wanted to be sure the Open Space Advisory Committee is in support of the initiative.

Lindsay Floyd motioned to endorse the initiative to consider the amendment of Chapter 92 of the Colchester Code. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All members voted in Favor. Motion Carried

B. Cabin Road Resubdivision, Sewer Connection

Jay Gigliotti explained this activity had been briefly mentioned at the meeting in June. An applicant of an approved subdivision has to connect the proposed new houses to the Town's sewer main. The path of the connection to the sewer main traverses open space owned by the Town. The initial proposal was to trench through the open space, however, staff commented that there would have been far too significant of an impact. The applicant is now proposing to directional drill subsurface to install the connection

pipes. The directional drilling is performed using radio signals to control a minimum depth of 42" below the open space surface at all times.

At this time, the internet connection failed and the meeting was lost. A Special Meeting was scheduled for 9/20/21 in order to conclude the 9/13/21 meeting. The 9/20/21 Special Meeting began at 430pm and picked up where the 9/13/21 meeting left off.

The commission discussed the potential impacts with the subsurface sewer connection install; such as potential town responsibility for the sewer connection, durability of the connection pipe and whether the installation will impact any future timber harvests of the open space. John Doran, applicant, addressed the commission inquiries and described the installation process.

The OSAC concluded that while this activity is an unconventional use of open space, the impacts shall be minimal.

Lindsay Floyd motioned to support the subsurface use of the Cabin Road open space for directional drilling installation of sewer connection pipe. Seconded by Kris Barnard. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

5. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary: None

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Kris Barnard to adjourn the Regular 9/13/21 & 9/20/21 Special Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Seconded by Lindsay Floyd. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the September 9/13/21 & 9/20/21 OSAC Meeting at 445pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Gigliotti