

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

MEMORANDUM

January 12, 2018

To: Colchester Board of Finance

From: Jay Gigliotti, Wetlands Enforcement Officer *JRG*

Re: **Colchester Planning and Zoning Department Application for Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program Grant Application**

The Planning and Zoning Department intends to and is preparing to submit an application to the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA). This application shall be made to acquire funding for the purchase of 541 Lebanon Avenue, Colchester CT, as Open Space land.

The OSWA program is an annual grant program sponsored by the CT DEEP and is to provide funding to municipalities and nonprofit groups to purchase Open Space or Water Supply lands. The Town of Colchester has previously applied for, and received OSWA grants in the past. Most recently was the purchase of 10.21 acres of vacant land on Dutton Road, known as the "Moroch Property".

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Department is proposing to submit an OSWA grant application to fund the Town's purchase of 55 acres on Lebanon Avenue (Route 16) as Open Space. The 55.26 acre property, known as 541 Lebanon Avenue, Assessor's Map 06-02 Lot 007-000, is located on the north side of Lebanon Avenue (Route 16), approx. 1,200 past the entrance to Jurach Road. The property was previously used for farming and agricultural uses and the single residence on the property was recently taken down.

The property scores extremely high in the town's evaluation criteria for potential Open Space acquisitions. The high score was achieved due to the property's proximity to existing open space, the number of cultural and environmental resources and the property is located within the State Designated "Sherman's Brook Greenway". The property contains a significant wetlands system, including and a number of small tributaries feeding Sherman's Brook. These features provides for excellent habitat and contributes to the rural character of the area.

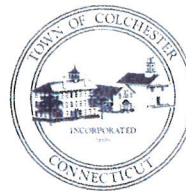
The OSWA application shall be to acquire the 55.26 acres for a purchase price not to exceed \$100,000, of which the Town would utilize approx. \$40,000 from the Open Space Acquisition and Fee in Lieu accounts and the grant would fund the remaining balance. The recommended motion is only for the endorsement of the P&Z Dept.'s OSWA grant application. Should the grant be awarded, the P&Z Dept. would then seek approval to utilize the Open Space funds to purchase the property..

Recommended Motion: The Colchester Board of Finance motions to endorse the Planning & Zoning Department's submission of an Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program application to the CT DEEP for the purchase of 541 Lebanon Avenue (Route 16).

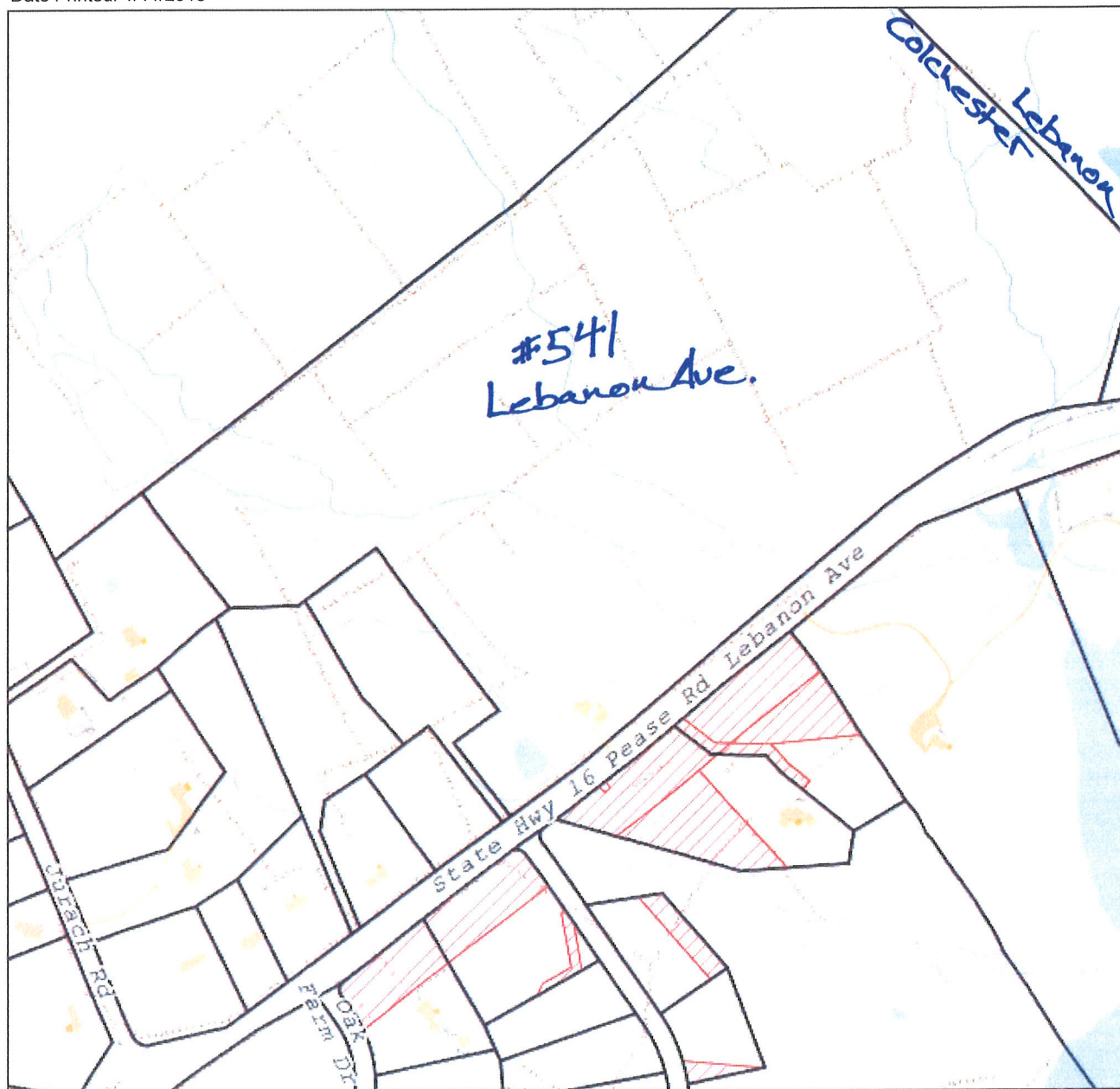
Attachments:
-Property Map 1 & 2

Town of Colchester

Geographic Information System (GIS)



Date Printed: 1/11/2018



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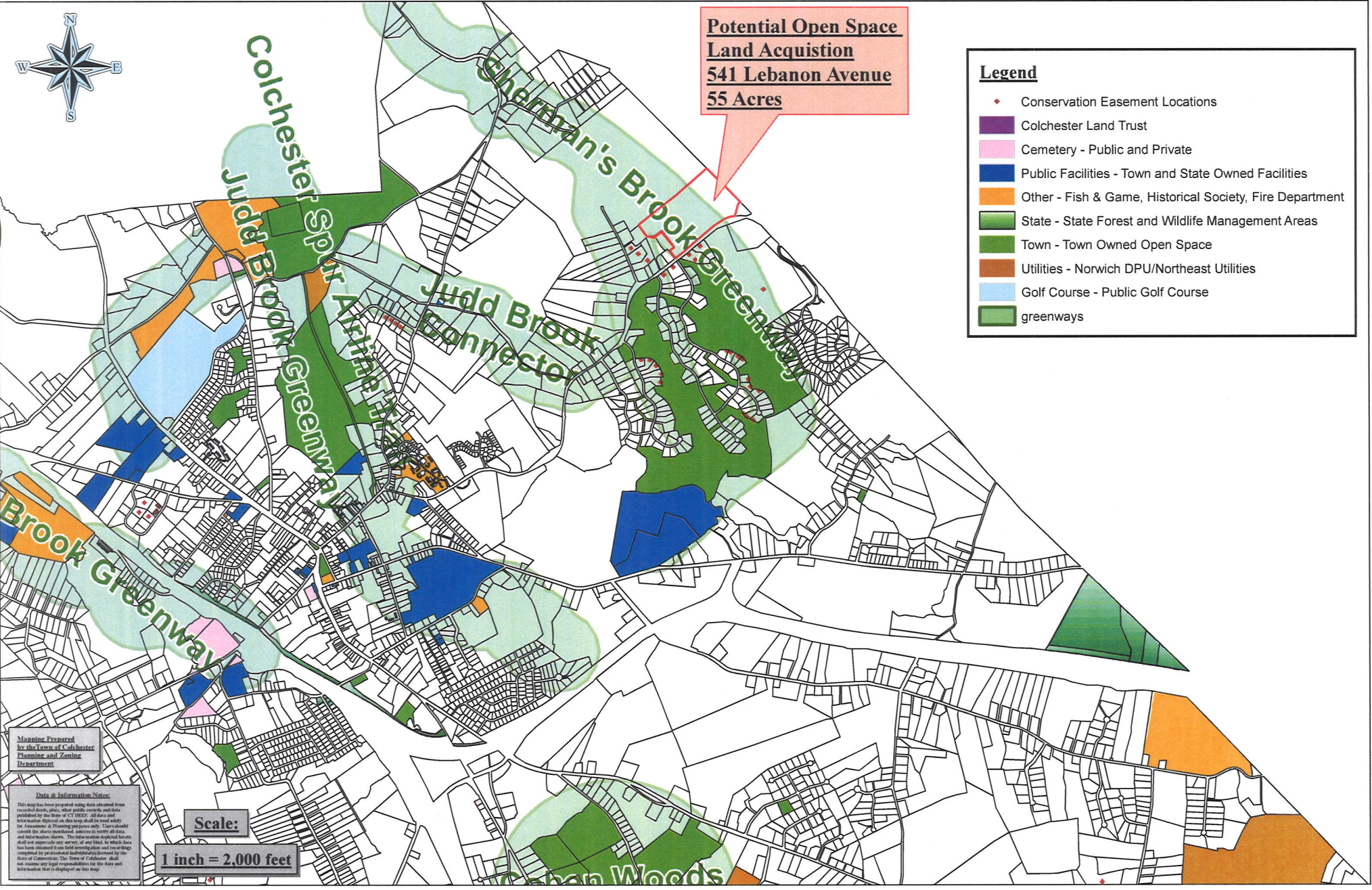
Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 400 feet





**Potential Open Space
Land Acquisition**
541 Lebanon Avenue
55 Acres

- Legend**
- ◆ Conservation Easement Locations
 - Colchester Land Trust
 - Cemetery - Public and Private
 - Public Facilities - Town and State Owned Facilities
 - Other - Fish & Game, Historical Society, Fire Department
 - State - State Forest and Wildlife Management Areas
 - Town - Town Owned Open Space
 - Utilities - Norwich DPU/Northeast Utilities
 - Golf Course - Public Golf Course
 - greenways



Mapline Prepared
by the Town of Colchester
Planning and Zoning
Department

Data & Information Notes:
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Scale:
1 inch = 2,000 feet