

Town of Colchester

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**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 12, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Town Hall - Conference Room 1
MINUTES**

RECEIVED
TOWN OF COLCHESTER, CT
FEBRUARY 14 PM 1:28

Members Present: Chairman William Hochholzer Jr., Alexis Devlin, Sarah Smith-Levine, Kris Barnard, Rosemary Coyle (BOS Liaison), Wetlands Agent Daniel Hickey

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Ted Fuini, Mary Stevens

1. **Call Meeting to Order** - W. Hochholzer Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM
2. **Citizen Comments** - Citizen Tracy Gayle was present and introduced herself and stated her interest in learning more about the Committee.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** - S. Smith Levine made the motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2023, seconded by K. Barnard. Motion Passed (3-0). K. Barnard abstained.
4. **Discussion of Update of 2006 Open Space Plan** - W. Hochholzer Jr. continued the discussion on creating a public survey regarding open space. He then stated that the initial portion of the survey should reference the focus and goals of the 2006 Open Space Plan and rank the objectives of the Committee. The survey would bridge all types of Open Space together to inform the public of what Open Space truly is. The Committee reviewed sample questions provided by W. Hochholzer Jr. and D. Hickey, then discussed the different types of questions and their relevancy towards the Committee's objectives. R. Coyle suggested referencing the 2006 Open Space Plan in the survey in case members of the public are not aware of its existence, the Committee agreed. W. Hochholzer Jr. tasked D. Hickey with drafting up a set of preliminary questions for the Committee to review and choose for the next meeting. A. Delvin mentioned including climate change in the survey and the Open Space Plan, W. Hochholzer Jr. agreed that climate change is a factor that needs to be included.
5. **Discussion of Open Space Parcel on Middletown Road (former Sablitz Property)** - D. Hickey presented the petition he created with the assistance of G. Furman (Town Clerk) to the Committee. The Committee discussed the process of the naming petition and the time frame to begin. W. Hochholzer Jr. requested to edit the language of the petition, the Committee agreed.
6. **Any Other Business Deemed Necessary**
 - A. Elections for 2024 officers - W. Hochholzer Jr. turned the meeting over to R. Coyle. R. Coyle asked if there were any nominations for Chairman. K. Barnard nominated W. Hochholzer Jr. R. Coyle

asked if there were any additional nominees, there were none. K. Barnard made the motion to elect W. Hochholzer Jr. as Chairman, seconded by A. Delvin. Motion passed (4-0).

R. Coyle turned the meeting back over to W. Hochholzer Jr. W. Hochholzer asked if there any nominations for Vice-Chairman. A. Delvin nominated K. Barnard, W. Hochholzer asked if there were any additional nominees, there were none. A. Delvin made the motion to elect K. Barnard as Vice-Chairman, seconded by S. Smith Levine. Motion passed (4-0).

B. The Committee discussed potentially switching to hybrid meetings with zoom to increase attendance. D. Hickey stated he would investigate facilitating hybrid meetings for the future.

7. Adjournment - K. Barnard made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by A. Delvin. Motion passed (4-0) meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Hickey, Wetlands Agent