

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 8th, 2011
Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting

Members Present: Chairman Nick Norton, Jay Gigliotti, William Hochholzer, Vice Chairman Adam Turner

Members Absent: Elizabeth Gilman, Ted Fuini, Rosemary Coyle BOS Liaison

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

A Turner motioned to add a presentation by Chris Borque on the formation of an Agricultural Commission to the agenda. Seconded by W Hochholzer. **Motion Carried.** Item was added as 4 and all other items were slotted back respectively.

2. **Citizens Comments:** None

3. **Approval of the October 12th, 2010 Meeting Minutes:**
J. Gigliotti motioned to approve the November 12th minutes as amended. Seconded by William Hochholzer. Members Gigliotti, Hochholzer and Norton voted in favor, Turner abstained. **Motion Carried**

4. **Presentation by Chris Borque regarding the establishment of an Agricultural Commission.**

Chris Bourque, a member of the Ad Hoc Committee to form an Agricultural Commission, distributed copies of a proposed ordinance establishing an Agriculture Commission and gave a brief background on the formation of this Commission. He said that this will be an advisory Commission. He said that the powers and duties of this Commission will be: Information and Education; Agricultural support; Conflict Resolution and Economic Opportunities. He said that the Ordinance will go before the Board of Selectmen for their approval, then to a Town meeting for the public's approval.

Adam Turner stated that the relationship between the Zoning Code and Colchester agriculture community was good and the proposed commission would provide a technical help to the Planning and Zoning commission.

Adam Turner motioned to recommend to the Colchester Conservation Commission that the Open Space Commission (OSC) supports the creation and implementation of an Agricultural Commission. W Hochholzer seconded. **Motion Carried.**

5. Land Acquisitions

- a. **White Oak Open Space** ---Consideration of plan to utilize town open space for a solar power array

Discussion centered on a plan proposed by the developer of the White Oak Farm to install a solar power array on town owned open space to the north. The plan further would allow the town to use the energy produced by the array at the Bacon Academy. A Turner pointed out that the project was a good idea but the footprint on the open space was large and would be noticeable. Chairman Norton stated that it was important to note that this issue was about maintaining town open space regardless of how warranted the plan was.

Motion was made by J Gigliotti to advise the Conservation Commission that the Open Space Commission opposes the use of the publicly open space on the White Oak Farm for an alternative energy solar grid but does endorse the use of alternative energy and would support the plan if it was done on school property such as the roof the Bacon Academy. Motion was seconded by W Hochholzer. **Motion Carried**

6. Open Space Plan Review

- a. **Updated Open Space Mapping** – Jay Gigliotti presented an updated open space map that included all types of public open space including conservation easements. He summarized the process he went through in updating the maps included in the 2006 Open Space Plan. He utilized Tax Assessment and P and Z records to create the updated map.

A Turner praised J Gigliotti for this work in developing the map. He outlined the value of having such a resource and submitted several potential greenway configurations.

Chairman Norton also praised J Gigliotti and indicated he looked forward to further updating of the Open Space Plan

7. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary

8. Adjournment

J. Gigliotti Motioned to Adjourn. Seconded by A. Turner. All members voted in favor.

Motion Carried

Chairman Norton adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm

Nick Norton
Chairman