

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Tuesday, July 12th, 2011
Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting

Members Present: Vice Chairman Adam Turner, William Hochholzer, Jay Gigliotti, Ted Fuini, John Henley

Members Absent: Chairman Nick Norton, Rosemary Coyle BOS Liaison

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Vice Chairman Adam, Turner called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the June 14th, 2011 Meeting Minutes:**
T. Fuini motioned to approve the June 14th, 2011 minutes. Seconded by J. Gigliotti All Members voted in Favor. **Motion Carried**

1. **Land Acquisitions**

a. **White Oak Tree Preservation/ Restoration ---**

Vice Chairman Adam Turner spoke about the Large White Oak tree within the White Oak Farm subdivision. The committee was introduced to issues concerning the tree at the last meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. A. Turner briefly revisited these issues with the Committee. He added that the Committee was waiting to hear back from T. Fuini, who had met with an arborist to discuss issues/restoration procedures. As discussed at the June meeting, one of the largest of the factors contributing to the tree's declining health are competition for sunlight, water and other nutrients. Vice Chairman Turner explained that this meeting is to discuss the findings of the arborist and to decide on an action plan. T. Fuini explained that he had traveled out to the tree with his friend who is a licensed arborist in the state of CT. He explained that the arborist had several general restoration recommendations. These practices are as follows, all possible vines that can be removed from the tree should be done so, all dead limbs should be pruned, any insects infestations should be handled, trim any trees 6-8 inches within 25-30 foot radius and taking an east to west approach, consider removing larger trees out from the subject tree about 30-50 feet. W. Hochholzer added that whatever work is being done that compaction around the dripline of the tree should be avoided. He stated that at one point this was a pasture tree and now it is a forest tree. He also added that T. Fuini should ask his arborist if it would be better to prune the dead branches in the fall or winter when the tree is dormant. T. Fuini stated that he will follow up with his arborist friend and recommended maybe some fertilizer stakes. He stated that these actions will "spur new growth". J. Gigliotti stated that he believed that the Town's maintenance crews were capable of handling the work necessary to restore the health of the tree. J. Henley

asked what other permissions were necessary to proceed. A. Turner explained the process for approval through the various administrations.

J. Gigliotti motioned that the Open Space Advisory Committee authorize the Planning and Zoning Dept to prepare and execute a maintenance program in conjunction with any professional assistance and to present the program to the Open Space Advisory Committee next meeting in September. Seconded by T. Fuini. All members voted in Favor. **Motion Carried**

2. **Open Space Plan Review**

a. **Land Acquisition Criteria Calculator** –

Vice- Chairman A. Turner stated that the Subdivision, Open Space Acquisition calculator is ready to go, however, the Department has not finalized it and will do so before the meeting in September.

3. **Any Other Business Deemed Necessary**

- A. Vice Chairman Adam Turner stated that due to Staff Vacations the August meeting will most likely be cancelled.
- B. He also stated that the town has begun discussions with the Norwich Department of Public Utilities concerning the acquisition of a 70 acre piece of land located off of Brainard Rd. The land Trust is also aware of the piece, and have had their own discussions regarding possible purchase.
- C. The Town is also working on its Plan of Conservation and Development and will attempt to get a Line Item for Open Space Purchases in the Town Budget.

4. **Adjournment**

J. Gigliotti Motioned to adjourn, Seconded by J. Henely
Vice Chairman Turner adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm

Respectively submitted, Jay Gigliotti