

**Town of Colchester**  
**Open Space Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM**  
**Regular Meeting**

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2012 JAN 13 PM 12:00  
*Nancy A. Bray*  
NANCY A. BRAY  
TOWN CLERK

**Members Present:** Chairman Nick Norton, Vice Chairman Adam Turner, William Hochholzer, Jay Gigliotti, Ted Fuini, Rosemary Coyle BOS Liaison

**Members Absent:** John Henley

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman N. Norton called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting Minutes:**  
W. Hochholzer motioned to approve the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 minutes. Seconded by T. Fuini. All Members voted in Favor. **Motion Carried**
4. **Land Acquisitions:**
  - a. **Open Space Funding**

Vice Chairman A. Turner distributed a hand out to the committee outlining how recently, many municipalities in Connecticut had been making open space acquisitions. He stated that over 50% of the municipalities in Connecticut had made land purchases in the last three years. He also explained that land prices have decreased by 25% in the past 3 years and cited several examples of large and small town land purchases. A. Turner explained to the committee that there is State funding for open space; however it is not available until the next fiscal year, as the State of CT does their budget on a two year cycle. He also stated there are 2 types of Agricultural Grants that are available, Viability and Preservation grants. Most of the grants that are available, either Agricultural or State funded are usually matching. They all vary in the % of matching and the overall size of the grant. A. Turner cited certain examples that were included on the hand-out and reviewed the types of grants. He explained that the Town of Colchester has made previous land purchases in conjunction with The Norwich Public Utility Company and the Colchester land Trust. Chairman Norton asked for further explanation of when the State's grant money would become available. A. Turner explained the 2 year budget cycle and stated that there was approximately \$5 Million for the preservation of Agricultural properties. W. Hochholzer stated that CT DEEP had just announced open space grant money they had made available. A. Turner said at the time when he put the memo together they had not announced it yet; however he will look into CT DEEP's available grant money. R. Coyle asked if all State grants were matching. A. Turner stated that both State and Agricultural Grants were both matching. He added that the

more money that the town would contribute, the more money that would be available, he explained that during the Town of Madison's recent land purchase, the State contributed \$750,000.

W. Hochholzer motioned and Chairman Norton amended the motion to include "..., at this time" to the end....to recommend to the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectman that the purchase of Open Space and the funding necessary to be considered as identified in the Plan of Conservation and Development and the Open Space Plan. Further than the purchase of Open Space results in long term value to residents and that in this time of falling land prices, the purchase of open space is a good benefit to the Town, at this time.

Seconded by T. Fuini. All members voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

#### **5. Open Space Plan Review:**

Vice Chairman A. Turner distributed copies of the updated Open Space Map. He stated that the Planning and Zoning Department was beginning to work on the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The Open Space plan was important as this would be a guide for the POCD. He stated that in working on the POCD that the town would also incorporate the State's POCD as well.

#### **6. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary:**

a. **Colchester land Trust Gateway Property-** W. Hochholzer explained to the committee that the Colchester land trust had developed a "crop harvest plan" for their property named "The Gateway Property" located on Bull Hill Road near the Airline Trail. J. Gigliotti distributed a plan showing the proposed Crop Harvest. W. Hochholzer told the committee that The Land Trust had received a Grant from NRCS for Stewardship planning and they were able to use some of that \$ for invasive species control which the trust did last summer, as well as this crop tree release. He explained that the harvest was not a traditional Timber Harvest as the plan was to take trees that would promote and allow other trees to grow. He further explained the principles of the release. The harvest had not begun yet however should be beginning soon.

b. **Election of Officers-** A. Turner Recommended Nicholas Norton to be re-elected as the Chairman and Jay Gigliotti be elected as Vice-Chairman. W. Hochholzer seconded the recommendation. All members voted in Favor. **Recommendation carried.**

T. Fuini asked on the status of the White oak tree Rehabilitation. J. Gigliotti stated that he had met with the Town's Public Works and Park Maintenance Dept and work was going to begin next week. The first step of work that was going to be done was the clearing in a 60' radius around the tree.

7. **Adjournment**

A. Turner Motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by T. Fuini. All Members voted in favor. **Motion carried.** Chairman N. Norton adjourned the meeting at 6:57 pm

Respectively submitted,  
Jay Gigliotti