

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, January 9, 2017
Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Nick Norton, Mary Stevens, Vice-Chairman William Hochholzer, B.O.S. Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Town Staff Jay Gigliotti

Members Absent: Linda Grzeika and Ted Fuini

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Nick Norton called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the November 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Mary Stevens motioned to approve the 11/14/16 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by William Hochholzer. All Members voted in favor. Motion Carried

4. **Open Space:**

A. CT DEEP Recreational Trails Program

Jay Gigliotti explained the town's awarded grant project, funded through through the CT DEEP Recreational Trails Program (RTP). He explained the project is for a conceptual design of a pedestrian trail, along the edge of the pavement, in the town-owned Right-of Way of Cemetery Road. The proposed trail, which is envisioned to be nothing more than a beaten footpath, shall effectively link two (2) existing networks of pedestrian trails, resulting in a contiguous, pedestrian trail network, covering approx. 100 miles, from East Lyme to the Connecticut/ Massachusetts border.

Discussion followed regarding the feedback staff has been receiving from the residents of Cemetery Road.

B. 2017 Open Space & Watershed Acquisition Program

Jay Gigliotti explained the town may have the opportunity to pursue the acquisition two (2) parcels of land along the Jeremy River, immediately down gradient of the former Norton Paper Mill and to the west of the CT DOT Bridge carrying Route 149 over the river.

He continued to explain there are a number of questions surrounding the two (2) properties which must be answered prior to the pursuit of acquisition. These outstanding inquiries relate to the existing environmental condition of the properties and the responsibilities of the stakeholders associated with the potential project.

Jay Gigliotti explained that he had hoped to have some of these questions answers so as to obtain an endorsement from the Open Space Advisory Committee at tonight's meeting. However, these questions are still outstanding and the grant is due on February 2, 2017.

As a result, Mr. Gigliotti explained that if these questions are answered and an endorsement from the Open Space Advisory Committee is needed, a special meeting of the committee may be required to submit an open space acquisition grant.

Discussion followed on the potential project and some of the specifics of a the CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Grant Application.

5. **Any Other Business Deemed Necessary:** None

6. **Adjournment**

Mary Stevens motioned to adjourn the January 9, 2017 meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee, seconded by Will Hochholzer. All members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Gigliotti