

**Town of Colchester**  
**Open Space Advisory Committee**  
**Monday, December 11, 2017**  
**Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**Members Absent:** None

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Nick Norton called the 12/11/17 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:01pm

2. **Citizens Comments:** None

3. **Approval of the November 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

**Mary Stevens motioned to approve the 9/11/17 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Ted Fuini. Ted Fuini abstained. All other Members voted in favor. Motion Carried**

4. **Open Space:**

**A. Staff Updates:**

**Open Space Funds Account Balances:**

Jay Gigliotti explained that it was his intention to provide the committee with an up-to-date balance for each of the Town's two (2) open space account balances. He explained that a large subdivision on Old Hebron Road has been completed and the town has received all of the open space fee in lieu funds for the development. He also explained that there was two (2) other subdivisions which provided open space fees. The balance that he got was not easy to read and he stated he would get a balance for committee at the January meeting.

**Open Space Acquisition Program**

Jay Gigliotti explained that with the State's current budget issues, he had concerns about several grants the Town had applied for in 2017. Despite multiple attempts to determine the status of the programs, town staff has been unsuccessful in being able to determine whether or not the programs would be funded. Fortunately, the several grants the town had applied for in 2017, were not for open space acquisition. The primary grant program for open space land acquisition is the CT DEEP Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA). The town received correspondence from the CT Land Conservation Council indicating that the CT DEEP OSWA program would be funded for the 2018 grant round.

Mr. Gigliotti indicated that the P&Z Department was currently determining whether the town could develop an application for the 2018 OSWA grant round. This was in part, the reason for getting an up-to-date balance of the open space accounts. The committee inquired about what properties would be on the radar for this potential grant application. Mr. Gigliotti stated that there were a number of properties the P&Z Dept. was keeping an eye on and there were a number of factors (including cost, appraisals, environmental...etc.) that would dictate what, if any, properties could be included in a OSWA application. The committee suggested staff to speak with the Colchester Land Trust to see if there were any properties that was on their radar, which they could not move on at this current point in time. Mr. Gigliotti stated that he would speak with the Land Trust and develop a property list for the committee at the January meeting.

## **New Subdivisions:**

Jay Gigliotti explained the P&Z Dept. has been contacted regarding two (2) potential subdivisions. The first is on Scott Hill Road and is a proposed four (4) lot subdivision. Town staff have received a survey which shows the proposed four (4) lot layout. The property abuts the Norwich Public Utility Deep River Reservoir and is not located in any of the Town's designated greenways. The Second is located on Jurach Road and does not have a proposed number of lots. The Jurach Road property consists of approx. 238 acres and falls within the Sherman's Brook Greenway. Staff was not given a survey of this property. Both of the two (2) subdivisions are in an extremely preliminary stage and no applications have been submitted for either. Discussion followed about the possibility of Fee in Lieu of the Open Space and if the land in either property is valuable for any other reasons or to any other parties (i.e. NPU Deep River Reservoir). Mr. Gigliotti stated he would continue to monitor the situation and inform the committee if it seems things shall be moving forward

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

#### **A. Approval of 2018 Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule**

Jay Gigliotti passed out 2018 Meeting schedules to the OSAC members. He explained that the February 2018 meeting had been changed to the fourth Monday of the month (2/26/18) and the October & November 2018 meeting had been changed to the third Monday of the month (10/15/18 & 11/19/18). Each of the relocated meeting dates was done so due to holidays that fell on the second Monday of the affected months.

**Motion made by Linda Grzeika to approve the 2018 Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule. Seconded by Mary Stevens. All members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.**

#### **B. OSAC Election of Officers**

Chairman Nick Norton informed to the committee that he been Chairman for quite some time and he felt that he had been the chairman long enough. Mr. Norton indicated that he would not seek re-election as the OSAC Chairman, however, he would most definitely stay on the committee as a regular member.

The Elections of Officers for the Colchester Open Space Advisory Committee are as Follows:

#### **Chairman:**

**Mary Stevens nominated William Hochholzer as Chairman of the Colchester Open Space Advisory Committee. There were no other nominations for Chairman. Seconded by Linda Grzeika. All Members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.**

#### **Vice-Chairman:**

**Mary Stevens nominated Ted Fuini as Vice-Chairman of the Colchester Open Space Advisory Committee. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chairman. Seconded by William Hochholzer. All Members voted in Favor.**

### **6. Adjournment**

**Motion made by Linda Grzeika to adjourn the 12/11/17 meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee, seconded by Ted Fuini. All members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.**

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the December 11, 2017 OSAC meeting at 6:28pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jay Gigliotti