

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Monday, October 15, 2018
Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Will Hochholzer, Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini, Nick Norton, Mary Stevens, Linda Grzeika and Town Staff Jay Gigliotti

Members Absent: B.O.S. Liaison Rosemary Coyle

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 10/15/18 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the August 13, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2018 OCT 16 PM 12:06
TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Linda Grzeika stated the minutes indicated the 8/13/18 meeting minutes were approved. The minutes shall be amended to reflect approval of the 6/11/18 meeting minutes.

Linda Grzeika motioned to approve the 8/13/18 OSAC meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini. All members voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

4. **Open Space:**

CT DEEP RTP Recreational Trails Program Grant Application

In 2015, the town was awarded a grant from the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program (CT DEEP RTP), to study & design a link trail between the Richard Goodwin Trail and the Airline Trail, through Cemetery Rd and Church St. Recently, the study was completed and the next step is to apply for funding of the project through the CT DEEP.

The Planning & Zoning Department is preparing to submit a trail grant application to the CT DEEP RTP for link trail funds. In addition to the trail itself, funds will also be used to install a crosswalk on Route 16 and another on Route 149. The installation of this trail would allow for a connection to be made to the two larger trail networks, resulting in a contiguous trail from East Lyme to the Mass. Border.

Jay Gigliotti explained the Planning & Zoning Department had conducted a public informational meeting regarding the potential grant, for residents in the immediate area of the proposed trail and the public in general. He stated many of the concerns received at the public information session related to safety and the usage of the trail in the neighborhood. Linda Grzeika stated she had attended the meeting and the residents had valid concerns.

A map of the project area and a fact sheet regarding the grant application was passed out to commission members. Jay Gigliotti explained the P&Z Department was requesting the OSAC's endorsement of the grant application. The Board of Selectmen shall vote on whether to submit the grant at their 10/18/18 meeting.

Motion made by Mary Stevens to endorse the Planning & Zoning Department's submission of CT DEEP RTP grant application for Cemetery Rd/ Church St Link Trail. Seconded by Ted Fuini. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Airline Trail 12-Town Task Force

Recently, Colchester became involved a 12-Town Task for on all matters concerning the Airline Trail. The Task force is comprised of each of the towns the Airline Trail passes through and is being spearheaded by the CT Resource Conservation

& Development (RC&D). The task force is working on a grant to the same CT DEEP RTP program, for funds to develop an Airline Trail Master Plan. The Master Plan shall include strategies for economic development, regional maintenance, resource inventory, enhanced marketing and branding. Jay Gigliotti explained he sees this project as a long-term benefit for the town. This type of task force for the Airline Trail has never been done before and will help the town in their future planning strategies. Colchester planning & regulatory documents have historically included the Airline Trail as a unique feature and this project proposes to build off that.

Source 2 Sea

Jay Gigliotti explained the annual Source 2 Sea Clean-up day was held on Saturday, September 29, 2018. This is the nationwide gathering of volunteers to help clean-up the watersheds. The clean-up was again another success, among the items collected were 15 bags of garbage, old car parts, 6 tires, 1 car battery, miscellaneous trash and a partial artificial Christmas Tree. The areas cleaned were x2 sections of River Road, Meadow brook at the Wildlife Management Area and the dirt section of Pine Brook Road (this area had so much trash, they were unable to get to it all!)

Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SCCOG)

Recently, the SCCOG received a federal transportation grant to conduct a regional bike and pedestrian planning study. The study shall include all of the 22 cities and towns SCCOG is represents (Colchester is one of them). It will assess existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and identify gaps and future needs in pedestrian and bicycle networks. The town has met with the SCCOG's consultant from AECOMM and is in the process of gathering our bike and pedestrian information. Jay Gigliotti believes this will be a benefit for Colchester as well. The study will provide the town with valuable data that can be used to apply for bike and pedestrian funds. Staff shall keep the OSAC posted on the progress of the study.

UCONN Brownfields program

At the previous meeting of the OSAC, Jay Gigliotti informed the committee the P&Z Department had submitted an application to the UCONN brownfield grant development program. This is a program where UCONN students work with municipalities to develop a brownfield grant application. The department sent the UCONN program x2 different sites eligible for the brownfields program. Unfortunately, neither of these 2 sites were selected by UCONN program. Apparently, Colchester's median income was too high and the program selected communities who had lower income levels.

November 6 Statewide Vote

The Lebanon Open Space Commission forwarded the Colchester OSAC a memo about a proposed amendment to CT Constitution, which will be on the state-wide ballot on November 6, 2018. The amendment proposes the requirement of a public hearing to be held before any state property is transferred. The memo provided an example where a state-owned property that supported a weekly farmers market, was transferred with little to no warning and now there are concerns for the future of the farmers market in this location. The proposed amendment would require a public hearing to be held before a state property transfer could be finalized. In addition, if the property is controlled by the Dept of Ag or the DEEP, the transfer must receive a 2/3 vote from the House of Reps and the Senate in order to pass.

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

6. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Linda Grzeika to adjourn the 10/15/18 meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee, seconded by Mary Stevens. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the October 15, 2018 OSAC meeting at 6:33pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Gigliotti