

**Town of Colchester**  
**Open Space Advisory Committee**  
**Monday, November 19, 2018**  
**Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**Members Absent:** Nick Norton, B.O.S. Liaison Rosemary Coyle

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman William Hochholzer called the 11/19/18 OSAC Meeting to order at 6:00pm

The OSAC members welcomed new member Kris Barnard and introduced themselves. Chairman William Hochholzer thanked her for joining the OSAC.

2. **Citizens Comments:** None

3. **Approval of the October 15, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

Mary Stevens motioned to approve the 10/15/18 OSAC meeting minutes as written. **Seconded by Linda Grzeika. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

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4. **Open Space:**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Funding Opportunities**

Jay Gigliotti explained he had received notification that the NRCS is accepting applications for 2018-2019 program, providing financial assistance to agricultural and forest landowners. The program provides funding for a wide variety of agricultural and forest projects. Jay Gigliotti gave several examples of current and past projects that have received NRCS funding. He asked the OSAC to let him know if anyone had ideas for potential projects.

**Colchester Right to Farm Sign**

Recently, the Colchester Land Trust & Agricultural Commission embarked on a campaign to develop signage indicating Colchester is a Right to Farm Community. This refers to the Town's "Right to Farm" Ordinance adopted in 2008, after the Town had completed an Agricultural Viability Study. Jay Gigliotti presented the sign to the OSAC. The majority of these signs shall be placed on private property. The sign shall also be secured to the "Welcome to Colchester" board on Linwood Avenue and to a future board at the Lake Hayward/ Route 85 intersection. Anyone interested in putting up a sign on their property should contact the Colchester Land Trust.

**UCONN Brownfields Initiative**

This past spring, the town applied to a UCONN program which would assist in the submissions of potentially two applications for brownfields assessments/ redevelopments programs. The UCONN program (CT Municipal Assistance Program) involves assisting the town in preparation of the submission documents as well as facilitating meetings between all stakeholders. The town identified two properties with previous brownfield type uses which could benefit from acceptance into the program. One property located on River Road (which actually consists of 3 smaller parcels) and the other is on Comstock Bridge Rd. The town's intent is to secure these properties as some type of open space, as both of the properties include river frontages in excess of 1500'. The Town was not selected for the UCONN program in the spring, however, Jay Gigliotti has recently received notification indicating UCONN is accepting applications for this program once again.

The Planning & Zoning Department shall be resubmitting applications for the same two properties. The deadline for submission of applications to the program is November 30, 2018.

### **8-Mile River Watershed Interactive Mobile Map**

Recently, the 8-Mile River watershed received funds to develop a mobile, interactive map for the watershed. The mapping shall be for trails and other amenities encouraging the public to take advantage of the wonderful resources in the watershed. Colchester is at the headwaters of the 8-Mile watershed and is participating in the development of the mobile map. Jay Gigliotti explained that while this is only for the 8-Mile River Watershed, if the program does well, they will be looking to expand and include other watersheds. He will keep the OSAC posted on the development.

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

#### **FOI Highlights, Meeting Notices & Board/Commission Handbook**

Jay Gigliotti explained the Town Clerk distributed information on current FOI laws, including meeting & notices. Most of the FOI requirements are handled by staff, but in case any members had any questions, a FOI handbook was distributed to each member. Linda Grzeika explained that she has had experience with the FOI requirements through her position as the Registrar. She stated the FOI process is very specific and must be carried out consistently.

#### **2019 Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule**

Jay Gigliotti distributed drafts of the 2019 meeting schedule. He identified two amendments to be made. The October and November meetings had to be scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, due to a conflict with holidays.

**Motion made by Mary Stevens, to approve the 2019 Regular OSAC meeting schedule as amended. Seconded by Linda Grzeika. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried**

#### **Elections of Officers**

Jay Gigliotti explained the OSAC By-Laws requires the committee to conduct elections of officers, annually, at the end of the year. He reviewed the nomination process with the OSAC.

Chairman William Hochholzer stepped down as Chairman and Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini took over to conduct nominations for OSAC Chairman.

Linda Grzeika nominated Will Hochholzer for Chairman. There were no other nominations.

**Motion made by Linda Grzeika to elect Will Hochholzer as OSAC Chairman. Seconded by Mary Stevens. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

Vice-Chairman Ted Fuini stepped down as Chairman and Chairman William Hochholzer conducted nominations for OSAC Vice-Chairman.

Mary Stevens nominated Ted Fuini for Vice-Chairman. There were no other nominations.

**Motion made by Mary Stevens to elect Ted Fuini as OSAC Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Linda Grzeika. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

### **6. Adjournment**

**Motion made by Linda Grzeika to adjourn the 11/19/18 meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee, seconded by Ted Fuini. All Members Voted in Favor. Motion Carried.**

Chairman William Hochholzer adjourned the November 19, 2018 OSAC meeting at 6:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jay Gigliotti