

## Town of Old Lyme, CT- Open Space Commission Minutes

Town of Old Lyme  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, April 8, 2016

In Attendance: Diana Atwood Johnson, Chairwoman, Amanda Blair, Peter Cable, William Dunbar, Evan Griswold, Gary Gregory, Bruce Baratz, Land Steward Lisa Niccolai,  
Guest: Bob Gunn

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

1. Welcome/Introductions- Welcome to guest, Bob Gunn, all members introduced themselves and provided a brief background of their time on the Commission.
2. Naming of Voting Alternates- none.
3. Chairman's Report
  - a. Ames Access- A sign indicates a closed trail due to hunters. There is no hunting allowed, so sign will be revised Will be putting up a kiosk soon which will have the maps and relevant information.
  - b. Chairwoman Johnson noted that the Commission will be charged \$300 to include a map of each trail in the town's quarterly report. The pros and cons were discussed, including the cost and alerting residents of the trails. The Commission agreed the maps should continue to be published in the report, but would like to negotiate the fees associated with same. Mr. Baratz suggesting sending home the maps in the schools, churches, etc. Chairwoman Johnson requesting Mr. Baratz create a distribution proposal. Ms. Blair suggested Earth Day and Garden Club as other ways of distribution. Chairwoman Johnson noted the maps will be available at the Town Hall and eventually would like a kiosk in the Town Hall with all Open Space information available for residents.
  - c. Commission received bill from Mr. Hendricks, he ended up donated 20% of his work and Chairwoman Johnson is greatly appreciative for this and his time.
  - d. Chairwoman Johnson spoke with Todd Machnik. He sent his letter of agreement regarding his property regarding the cow pasture which was read and discussed at the meeting. Chairwoman Johnson will draft something to set out the understanding of both parties to be reviewed with the Commission attorney.
  - e. Chairwoman Johnson spoke with Todd Machnik about building/replacing both bridges and kiosks for the various projects for Open Space and he agreed to look at the sites and provide an estimate for the work.
4. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2016, motion to approve by Evan Griswold, seconded by William Dunbar, motion approved unanimously.
5. NEC-EIS Alternative 1- Peter Cable: Bonnie Reemsnyder, John Forbes, Sam Gold and BJ Birnbaum met with members of the FRA and engineering consultants. Meeting was a result of the response from Old Lyme to the proposal for Northeast Corridor expansion,

Mr. Cable noted that of the 3000 responses to the 600 mile expansion, 1200 responses were from Old Lyme. The meeting included approximately 25 environmental/scenic, historical/cultural and commercial stakeholders. FRA agreed to take the bridge which would bisect the town off the table and propose a tunnel from Old Saybrook through Old Lyme. Mr. Cable noted this was all just proposed in the past few weeks, so, cost, geology and feasibility is not yet known. Mr. Cable noted Alternative One can not be taken off the table (but that the proposal will be a tunnel) and that the State prefers Alternative Two (service through Hartford). Chairwoman Johnson noted that First Selectwoman Reemsnyder believes the FRA will not chose one alternative, but will select a combination of the three. Chairwoman Johnson noted that the tunnel proposal makes Alternative One, which was the most cost effective, now much more expensive. Chairwoman Johnson and Mr. Cable suggested getting more information together regarding the effects on town owned Open Space parcels.

- a. Mr. Dunbar noted that the railroad bridge is scheduled to be rebuilt over the Connecticut River, and the staging is to be built shortly. He suggested getting more information about where the staging will be built. Chairwoman Johnson noted a lot of the information is available online, but unsure if the staging area information is available.
6. Land Steward Report: Ms. Niccolai notes that she has not noticed any additional ATV usage on the various properties. Also, trails did not suffer too badly as a result of the recent ice storm. One arrow sign indicating where a road is located was smashed, which will be replaced. She also noted the positive feedback she has received on the maps.
7. Old Business:
- a. James report to First Selectwoman/Commission response to First Selectwoman- Mr. James was not at the meeting so this item was not addressed.
  - b. Coastal Resilience Workshop- Chairwoman Johnson noted the workshop and attendance were great. The Commission discussed whether to engage in additional workshops, it was agreed to wait to see how attendance and interest was in the upcoming workshop below. Discussion was had about climate change and its effects on the real estate market and various properties in Old Lyme which are likely to be flooded in the not so distant future.
    - i. There is a workshop being held by the Congregational Church on climate change scheduled to be held at the Town Hall on June 9, 16th and 23rd, to alert the public the possibilities of another Storm Sandy.
  - c. Open Space Property Checklists-updates
    - i. Champlain North and South – Mary (Vulnerable to railroad)- Chairwoman Johnson will speak with Mary about progress.
    - ii. Ames (Noyes) – Peter and Amanda (Vulnerable to railroad)- Mr. Cable and Ms. Blair are going to meet with John Pfeifer about Ames and the archeological information relative to the caves on the site.
    - iii. Bartholomew-Evan- will walk the property and write report of findings.

iv. Eklund – Bill, Bruce, Diana (??vulnerable to railroad)- Diana and Lisa are going to tour Eklund next week.

8. New Business

- a. Walks- Ms. Niccolai and Mr. Griswold might be available to do them again. Chairwoman Johnson can do the publicity. Ms. Blair suggested doing an evening walk of the trails and discussed various methods of publicizing.

9. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:  
Suzann Gintoff Vautrain