



# **Branford Select Committee on Open Space Acquisition**

## **MINUTES [UNAPPROVED]: DECEMBER 4, 2017 - CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER**

Attending: B. Horne, J. Merrick, J. Miller, M. Palluzzi, E. Saulys, R. Shanahan, members of the public Carol and Joe Cutrona, and T. Elton [staff].

- I Chair B. Horne called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
- II R. Shanahan moved to approve the July minutes, seconded by E. Saulys. Motion carried.
- III 2018 meeting schedule - B. Horne asked the committee if it wanted to consider changing its meeting schedule as of the new year from monthly to one that more aligned with the committee's charge and workload. After discussing the merits of monthly vs. quarterly vs. alternate months, E. Saulys moved, seconded by J. Merrick, to schedule meetings on "even" months to avoid holidays, but to continue to hold them on the first Monday. Discussion continued reaching consensus that the August meeting may be cancelled as most boards and commissions do not meet that month. Motion carried unanimously. The 2018 meeting schedule will list meetings for 7pm on the first Mondays of February, April, June, August, October and December.
- IV Plan of Conservation of Development - The first POCD meeting was held November 30<sup>th</sup> with "coastal resources" and the impact of climate change and sea level rise as the dominant issue. The committee's focus will suggest updating the 2015 open space plan and will include how to encourage interconnectivity with acquisition of parcels with specific features, such as larger than 10 acres, abutting existing open space, etc., and possibly zoning incentives. The Regional Water Authority's plan for its non-watershed properties was discussed as an example of tracts of land that should be considered under the plan. How best to finance acquisitions was also raised, citing Cheshire's approach. B. Horne will follow up the finance director to explore possibilities. It was also suggested that the committee study parcels in flood plains and develop recommendations of how the town might handle such properties impacted by Sandy and Irene-type storm events, considering West Haven's recent experience. Another objective will be to correct inaccuracies in the Open Space GIS layer and to have it updated annually. J. Miller, B. Horne and staff will circulate draft recommendations among committee members to present at the January 10<sup>th</sup> POCD meeting.
- V Unfinished / New Business - B. Horne advised he is working on the update to the committee's guidelines. He is preparing draft recommendations based on the committee's discussions over the past months that he will review with the First Selectman and then present to the committee for its consideration.
- VI Announcements / adjourn.
- B. Horne advised that the North Branford Land Trust is no longer considering acquiring property that lies partly in Branford.  
The TOD project has been completed; the final report will be released once the survey results have been included into its findings.  
A POCD meeting to discuss conservation issues will be on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.  
The committee's next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- With no further business, J. Merrick moved to adjourn, seconded by E. Saulys; motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary].