



Branford Select Committee on Open Space Acquisition

MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 15, 2017 - CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER

Attending: P. Bassermann, B. Horne, J. Miller, E. Saulys, R. Shanahan, M. Palluzzi, Town Planner Harry Smith, staff T. Elton, and members of the public Carol and Joe Cutrano.

Chair B. Horne called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. P. Bassermann moved to accept the November minutes, seconded by R. Shanahan; motion carried. The chair reminded everyone that the meeting is a 'special meeting' and cannot entertain topics beyond what is identified on the posted agenda.

I Presentations and projects – Review and rank Lakso and McCabe properties.

B. Horne provided background on the Lakso properties located on Leeetes Island Road and Red Hill Road, listed on the property inventory as 47a, b, c, d, and 48. The parcels' natural and conservation features were identified and discussed, including as farmland, its watercourses and wetlands, wildlife habitat, proximity to existing open space (e.g., the Van Wie Preserve), as well as their development attributes and challenges. The properties could be candidates for conservation as open space, as farmland as 490s or with by acquiring development rights as with the Johnson farm, and collectively could serve as a "green buffer" to the I-95 and Rte. 1 corridor. It was agreed that some parcels may be more valuable in combination with others, and to rank the parcels as follows: 47a-A-, 47b-A, 47c-A-, 47d-C-, and 48-B.

Discussion was then directed to the McCabe property, an undeveloped 3+ acre parcel located on Cherry Hill Road abutting the Branford Historical Society's Harrison House and gardens. Reference was made to information on the property that BHS president Ginny Page provided the committee a few months earlier. In discussing conservation possibilities, it was noted that the property is within the boundaries of the town's Main Street "gateway plan", and that it connects two historical properties. Its attributes include wetlands, connectivity and as part of the Town Center's view scape. Because of its uniqueness compared to other properties on the inventory, consensus was that the parcel cannot be ranked using the same criteria and that a description of the property with its conservation qualities will be the chair and staff prepared for the committee's consideration.

II Properties review & status

There was no activity to report on the listed properties.

III Announcements and adjourn.

With no further business, M. Palluzzi moved to adjourn, seconded by P. Bassermann. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:48p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary]