



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

## **MINUTES [UNAPPROVED]: JULY 24, 2017 - CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER**

Attending: P. Bassermann, 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 7:05 p.m.

II P. Bassermann moved to accept the June minutes, seconded by J. Merrick.  
Motion carried, with two abstentions.

II Presentations and projects

B. Horne reopened the discussion from the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding revising the committee's guidelines. Comments to the draft prepared by P. Bassermann were shared and discussed.

Discussion was based on P. Bassermann's draft with the comments received to date, and focused on issues of public notice of the committee's agendas and minutes, its composition, members' term length, sharing committee information with sponsoring boards and commissions, its perceived authority, committee's name/title, when and how to notify owners when properties are of interest, and "open space" criteria of size, proximity, and undeveloped status for purposes of the committee's work. Discussion also included needing direction from the First Selectman regarding contacting owners and taking measures not to raise expectations of purchase or apprehensions related to the committee's interest in a property, tracking changes in ownership, and how to be effective in times of limited and inadequate resources.

B. Horne advised that the committee will continue its work on identifying and refining suggested changes to the committee's guidelines at the September meeting, and will present recommendations to the First Selectman when there is agreement on the proposed revisions. Serving as an advisory body to the First Selectman, any changes to its charge, composition or operation, must come from the Selectmen.

III Announcements and adjourn.

B. Horne advised that the North Branford Land Trust may be involved in an acquisition of a property that lies partly in Branford; a special meeting will be called if necessary.

M. Palluzzi shared that the Town's Transit Oriented Development [TOD] study is underway and will be followed by the decennial Plan of Conservation and Development [POCD], which sets the framework for local development and conservation for the next ten years.

The committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business, S. Saulys moved to adjourn, seconded by J. Merrick; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary].