



Branford Select Committee on Open Space Acquisition

MINUTES [UNAPPROVED]: JUNE 4, 2018 - CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER

Attending: P. Bassermann, B. Horne, J. Miller, E. Saulys, R. Shanahan, H. Smith, and T. Elton [staff].

- I Chair B. Horne called the meeting to order at 7:34p.m.
R. Shanahan requested that ATV use of open space properties be added to agenda for discussion. Hearing no objection, chair B. Horne revised the agenda to reflect the new item.
- II P. Bassermann moved to approve the April minutes, seconded by R. Shanahan. Motion carried.
- III Presentations & projects
- A. B. Horne advised the committee that the owner of three parcels in the Ivy-Brushy Plain section has indicated his interest in selling the properties. Maps, surveys and property descriptions were distributed, followed by discussion. B. Horne reported that he recently walked the properties with the owner and discussed with him his plans. He shared his observations that the approximately 12 acres are littered with furnishing and construction debris, the two contiguous parcels are land-locked without road frontage or direct access, and has steep slopes. He also noted that all three properties abut the Town's Supply Ponds open space preserve, with the smallest one offering the potential of another point of access to Supply Pond. The owner has clear title to the parcels which abut the Town's Supply Ponds open space preserve and invites other interested parties to walk the property at their convenience; the Land Trust has expressed interest, as well. The assessor's field cards reflect that the three parcels comprise a total of 11.77 acres with an appraised value of \$48,700. After consideration and discussion, J. Miller moved that the committee recommend to the First Selectman that the town meet with the owner to negotiate acquisition of the parcels. Seconded by E. Saulys, the motion carried unanimously.
- B. R. Shanahan alerted the committee to the fact that Branford's trails and open trails are increasingly being used illegally and causing extensive damage to the terrain. He reported that most of the activity is taking place in Supply Ponds and Pisgah Brook open spaces. Copies of photos and suggested action steps were distributed and reviewed. Discussion followed, including the point that the town has invested millions of dollars in open space acquisition and volunteers spend thousands of hours each year to maintain the properties, and the illegal use ATVs on the trails is destroying a town asset. Further discussion and consideration of action steps will take place a future committee meetings.
- IV Plan of Conservation of Development - A draft POCD has been posted on the town website and a public meeting is scheduled for June Wednesday, June 13th at Fire HQ.
- V Unfinished / New Business
- A. Revision/review of committee guidelines – there was no further action to report.
- VI Announcements / adjourn.
- With no further business, E. Saulys moved to adjourn, seconded by P. Bassermann; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:42p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary].