



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

**MINUTES [APPROVED]: JUNE 5, 2017 - CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER**

Attending: P. Bassermann, B. Horne, J. Merrick, Judy Miller, M. Palluzzi, members of the public Carol and Joe Cutrona, and T. Elton [staff].

Chair B. Horne called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. P. Bassermann moved to accept the May minutes, seconded by J. Miller; motion carried, with two abstentions.

## **I Presentations and projects**

B. Horne reopened the discussion from the May meeting regarding reviewing the committee's guidelines.

P. Bassermann distributed copies of a draft document titled "Committee on Open Space Planning [COSP] for the committee to review and discuss.

Discussion amongst committee members, and the participating public, included the following observations, comments, suggestions: the committee's perceived authority as the crux of the issue while the committee's role is advisory; whether a per capita formula is needed to determine how much open space the town should acquire and that that is a function of the Town's planning office; how open space acquisition is handled in other communities, e.g., Farmington, where one committee is charged with all town property acquisition not just open space; including "advisory" in the committee's name and drop "acquisition"; various process issues including a focus on how best to communicate the committee's work with property owners and the public in general and the logistics of when and how to contact property owners; that property owners always have the right to reject the town's acquisition interests; publishing the committee's criteria, committee structure, appointments, attendance, posting agendas and unapproved and approved minutes with the town clerk and the town website.

With sample ordinances from other CT towns now in hand, it was requested that sample ordinances from outside of CT be researched.

B. Horne then provided a brief background on the committee's genesis and creation, and identified next steps to include to review the existing guidelines, draft language for a mechanism within the guidelines that would act as a trigger the consideration of open space values including minimum size, proximity to existing open space, etc.

P. Bassermann's draft will be circulated to the committee by email asking everyone to review the draft and the sample ordinances/guidelines from other committees, and to then forward any questions, comments, and suggestions to staff to be considered for inclusion in the next draft.

## **II Properties review & status**

There was no activity to report on any of the properties on the review/status list.

## **III Unfinished/new business**

## **IV Announcements and adjourn.**

The next regularly scheduled meeting, for Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be cancelled. A special meeting will be scheduled, perhaps on July 17<sup>th</sup> pending agreement of all committee members. With no further business, J. Merrick moved to adjourn, seconded by P. Bassermann; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary].