



# Branford Select Committee on Open Space Acquisition

## MINUTES [UNAPPROVED]: OCTOBER 1, 2018 - CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER

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

- I Chair B. Horne called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed Joe & Carol Cutrona.
- II P. Bassermann moved to approve the June 4<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by S. Saulys. Motion carried.
- III Presentations & projects
- A. Discussion resumed from the June meeting regarding the Kinney properties. B. Horne reported on his conversation with the First Selectman, following the June meeting, recommending that he contact the owner to discuss a possible acquisition. He then reviewed the parcel maps and property lines, reported that four committee members have since walked the properties with him, distributed R. Shanahan's July 12<sup>th</sup> email supporting acquisition in which he notes that a parcel's proximity to other open space assets often elevate its preservation value beyond its commercial value. He also distributed a draft memo to the First Selectman recommending the properties be considered priority acquisitions for the town. S. Saulys suggested that the draft include "protection of wetlands" as a benefit of acquisition, in addition to its proximity to Supply Ponds and the existing trail network. Following discussion of the properties attributes, P. Bassermann suggested upgrading the properties' ranking from B+ to A- as suggested in R. Shanahan's email. B. Horne noted that the committee's ranking process needs to be refined to better reflect a property's conservation value. J. Miller added that the Conservation Commission is preparing a campaign to "brand" the numerous open space tracts that comprise Supply Ponds and the surrounding open space parcels, about 1,000 acres. S. Saulys moved to update the draft recommendation as discussed, seconded by J. Miller; motion carried. B. Horne will follow up accordingly.
- B. B. Horne notified the committee that since its efforts earlier in the year on the ZuWallick abutting Ecology Park, funding approval has been received by the Board of Finance and RTM; approval by the Board of Selectmen is expected, followed by acquisition.
- IV Plan of Conservation of Development
- The POCD steering committee submitted its final draft to Planning & Zoning recommending its approval and adoption. P&Z will hold a special meeting on it prior to their regular October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. It's expected the plan will be approved within the next couple of months. J. Miller raised the issue of how the POCD relates to SCOSA, found in the Plan's section on open space.
- V Unfinished / New Business
- Revision/review of committee guidelines – B. Horne intends to return to drafting the revisions to the committee guidelines later in the fall when he has completed pending Land Trust projects.
- VI Announcements / adjourn.
- 2019 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supply Ponds Preserve; it is also the Town's 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - The Land Trust is finishing work on its DEEP open space grant for the Red Hill Road acquisition.
  - Another DEEP grant round is expected with a February or March 2019 deadline.
  - A stone bench will be dedicated to the memory of Noble Proctor at Supply Ponds on October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- With no further business, J. Miller moved to adjourn, seconded by S. Saulys; motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary].