SELECT COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION (SCOSA)

Special Meeting
5:15PM – April 14, 2021
ZOOM Meeting
Attending Temporary Co-chairs Richard Shanahan, Joan Merrick; committee members Peter Bassermann, Dan Fitzgerald; Town Planner Harry Smith; members of the public Bill Horne and 2 anonymous.

Richard Shanahan called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm. This special meeting has been called because two of the properties we discussed at the 3-10-21 Special Meeting are becoming of active interest.

Minutes of 3-10-21 approved.

00 Leetes Island Rd. On market for $269,000. 4.8 acres, interior lot with no road access west of 723 Leetes Island Road also currently on the market, undeveloped marsh, some upland, owned by Ahlberg family. Branford Trail crosses, possible kayak launch. Development potential uncertain. Branford Land Trust talking with seller. First Selectman has expressed possible interest by town in seeing property protected. Land Trust is in negations for 723 (Medlyn). Committee used SCOSA Criteria for Open Space Acquisition to evaluate property. Property satisfied nearly all criteria including: preserving integrity of rare/fragile ecosystems, enhancing greenway system, protecting wildlife corridor, flood/erosion control, outstanding scenic site, connects open space parcels and protects parcel adjacent to Long Island Sound. Joan Merrick moved to score the parcel an A and recommend its protection to First Selectman Cosgrove. Peter Bassermann seconded the motion.

RWA (Regional Water Authority): 30 acres, woods, Brushy Plain Rd, adjacent to Lidyhites Pond, headwaters of Pisgah Brook. Development would impact water quality and viewscape. Development potential high. RWA announced future sale in 2010, and will give town and state first option. . SCOSA toured in 2010, scored an A rating. Richard has spoken to RWA representative who recommends the Town express interest at this time. Joan Merrick moved to recommend the Town express interest to First Selectman Cosgrove. Dan Fitzgerald seconded.

Adjourned at 5:54 pm.