



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Watch this meeting LIVE and rebroadcast on Comcast Channels 96, 1090, Frontier Channel 6071 and LIVE streamed or on-demand at www.simsburytv.org

OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP AND POLICIES WORK GROUP

December 7, 2022

4:30 P.M.

Zoom

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

1. Adoption of November 2, 2022 Minutes
2. Discussion on Website Updates and Topics
3. Discussion on Native Plant Policy
4. Discussion on Meadow Mowing Policy
5. Discussion on Open Space Budget Items and Presentation of Budget Priorities
6. Discussion on Items for January Meeting of Open Space Committee

Adjournment

Open Space Stewardship & Policies Work Group
Wednesday, November 2, 2022
4:30 PM- Via Zoom Video Conference
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

PRESENT: Margery Winters, Karen Cordner and Susan Masino

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Tyburski, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation and Tom Fitzgerald, Management Specialist were also in attendance.

Call to Order

Ms. Winters called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 3, 2022 Open Space subcommittee workgroup meeting were accepted.

2. Update on Co-Branding Opportunity with Hometown National Park

Ms. Masino shared she took the style guide they gave her and the logo from Mr. Kearney but there are multiple options on formatting. She shared the mock-up she created. She is waiting to hear back from them.

3. Update on Website Resources

Ms. Masino shared that she wanted to work on the light pollution resource. The other resource she wanted to update was on “bears”. She was also going to talk to Officer Mark about doing a program at the library on information regarding bears. There is an organization called Bear Smart and they have a lot of information and bear whistles maybe they could have a bear whistle giveaway. She stated the natural area stewardship policy that is on the website right now, a couple links in the document broke so she went in and fixed it, she will send Mr. Tyburski the updated version. Ms. Winters asked if the budget was being put together and if anything was submitted regarding invasive removal. Mr. Tyburski stated that they are not to the point of submitting requests, probably mid-December there is a template that needs to be submitted. Ms. Winters will work on the budget form.

4. Update on Schultz Park

Ms. Masino shared pictures she took at Schultz Park, the bottom line to have a Level 1 Arboretum you had to have 25 species. She thinks they have 23 species right now. There are 16 arboretums in CT and 7 have the certification so 9 just call themselves an arboretum.

5. Update on Trap Rock Ridge Enabling Legislation

Mr. Tyburski shared that the Town's intern did some research on the legislation and the memo is included in the packet. Ms. Winters asked if he was able to find out if Simsbury enabled it. Mr. Tyburski stated that according to the memo, it was mentioned in the 2017 POCD under what we want to protect and maintain. Ms. Masino stated that that sets the stage for actually checking the box and getting the enabling legislation in place if we didn't already do it.

6. Native Plant Policy Discussion

Ms. Winters shared the re-written policy, she stated that Granby just adopted a Native Plant Policy as well as a couple other Towns around us. Mr. Tyburski shared that as it relates to the native grasses listed in the policy, that one is a little tough because they have to be able to use the most pesticide resistant, he suggested excluding athletic fields and the golf course.

Ms. Masino thought it would be helpful to look at Granby's policy to see what they did. She also thought maybe it should state "native to the region or northeast". She stated they had discussed having a little spot for Open Space at the Board of Selectmen meeting and it might make sense to line up these couple little issues (Native Plant Policy, Trap Rock Ridge Legislation, and the Co-Branding). Ms. Cordner suggest that the policy have a section regarding why native plants are important to the insect population.

Ms. Masino stated that she sent Ms. Corner's light pollution information sheet to Mr. Roy and he suggested a very basic definition of light pollution and for the light color put less than or equal to 3000k.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor
Committee Clerk