

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2, 2015**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Lisa Heavner called the regular meeting of the Open Space Committee to order at 4:33 PM on Wednesday, December 2, 2015. The meeting was held in the main meeting room of the Simsbury Town Offices located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. In attendance were the following committee members: Don Rieger and new member William Rice, Chairman of the Planning Commission. Staff included Gerard Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation; and the new Director of Planning and Community Development, James Rabbitt.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

No one spoke at public audience.

**REVIEW/ADOPT MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2015**

The motion was made to adopt the minutes by Mr. Rieger with the word “his” changed to “him” on line 57, as suggested by Mr. Rice. Mr. Rice seconded the motion and all voted in favor, the motion passed.

**ETHEL WALKER WOODS PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Toner said Justin Bush’s Eagle Scout Project to install multiple trail signs and re-blaze trails on the Ethel Walker Woods property was approved and he is working on sign preparation. Justin has been in touch with Ethel Walker’s about access to the property.

The process to make improvements to the Town Forest Road parking lot is in motion and Mr. Toner said he thought Ethel Walker had been given the plans to review.

The park and recreation commission was slated to meet the next evening to address the issue of horses on the Ethel Walker Woods property.

**DISCUSS CHAPTER 21, FUND FOR LAND AND PRESERVATION ORDINANCE AND OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP POLICY**

Ms. Heavner relayed comments from committee member Helen Peterson, who was unable to attend the meeting, on items such as word selection.

Mr. Rieger had some suggestions around the issue of easements and other wording, such as using should or shall. He also conveyed some thoughts sent to him by Gerard Wetjen, a member of the culture, parks and recreation commission, such as whether there should be an unclassified classification in the open space inventory, and an economic category to help with decision making.

Ms. Heavner said the resources are not available at the present time to do an economic analysis of the properties, despite being a worthwhile endeavor.

**OPEN SPACE INVENTORY UPDATE**

The open space inventory is mostly complete. Mr. Toner said Mr. Rieger was helpful in that he took the inventory and coded it for different classifications relating to the burden that parks and recreation carries in regards to maintenance: regular, periodic, only as needed, etc. Mr. Toner said he wanted to the parks and recreation maintenance staff to go through the inventory as well.

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Ms. Heavner thanked everyone involved for their outstanding work to create the inventory, something the town has never had. Mr. Toner said the inventory includes about 2,300 acres of open space. Ms. Heavner said the document will help with budgeting and planning.

Mr. Rice asked about access to the document by the public. Ms. Heavner said the document is available for the public.

**1 OLD BRIDGE ROAD UPDATE**

There was no significant update on this. The flower bridge members were granted approval for a shed and once an architect is hired he will meet with the group.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Rieger moved to adjourn and Mr. Rice seconded and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Riefe