

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 4, 2015**

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CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Lisa Heavner called the regular meeting of the Open Space Committee to order at 4:30 PM on Wednesday, November 4, 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: Ferg Jansen, Helen Peterson and Don Rieger. Staff included Gerard Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation; Town Engineer Jeff Shea and Assistant Town Planner Michael Glidden.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No one spoke at public audience.

REVIEW/ADOPT MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2015

No changes were made.

ETHEL WALKER WOODS PROJECT UPDATE

Justin Bush's proposed Eagle Scout Project is to install multiple trail signs and re-blaze trails on the Ethel Walker Woods property. He is progressing through the presentation and approval process.

Mr. Toner said he presented to the culture, parks and recreation commission and has made a good start. Mr. Toner said Justin hopes to begin some work this fall. He will work with sign makers to have consistent signage.

Mr. Rieger asked about the issue of horses on the property, the town ordinance, and consistency with current regulations. Mr. Toner said he would look into the issue and take the necessary steps to address it.

Some work on the property has taken place, such a removal of hazardous trees. The next step is to look at the entrance and parking. Some funding for the project came with required tasks, such as signage, which is in existence.

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

Town Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo sent committee members the second draft version of the ordinance and policy for review. Committee members will review both and are slated to take action at the December 2 meeting.

OPEN SPACE INVENTORY UPDATE

Members viewed the updated inventory that Mr. Rieger has been working on. He brought in some coding and made some edits. Ms. Peterson asked if he went to staff for changes and Mr. Rieger said no. He noted that there are disclaimers that this document should not be the basis of official decisions. Mr. Shea supplied Mr. Rieger with aquifer information, which he included, whether a state or town definition of an aquifer.

Mr. Toner asked about including open space maintenance information and Mr. Rieger said it was part of the document.

The information may be sorted differently as time progresses said Mr. Rieger. Some of the interesting parcels were those that did not fit any particular qualification such as connectivity or having an aquifer.

1 OLD BRIDGE ROAD UPDATE

Mr. Shea said he needs to speak with the architect and negotiate a fee, and he is waiting to hear about the grant for the demolition of the house on the property. He said he hopes to have more to report at the next meeting.

Ms. Heavner asked that once the contract is signed Mr. Shea sets up a meeting with the flower bridge people. Mr. Shea said he would.

ADDED ITEM: TARIFFVILLE WATER COMPANY, WATER TOWER REPLACEMENT

Mr. Jansen moved that this item be added to the agenda. Mr. Rieger seconded and all voted in favor. Mr. Shea said that the fire district contacted him about replacing the water tank. The district has an opportunity for funding so it is proceeding. The land is owned by the town and the district has an easement.

It was determined that the site is the appropriate for the tank, but it does need to be replaced and not rehabbed. There can be no interruption in the service, so the new tank will be constructed next to the existing one. Once the new tank is built, the old tank will be removed. There are conservation easement issues, permits and approvals that will go along with the project.

The various boards and commissions that open space committee members are part of will also be involved with the process. Ms. Heavner and Mr. Glidden wanted to give people a heads up that this project is coming.

Mr. Jansen asked if a joint meeting might be appropriate as so many board and committees will be involved. Mr. Glidden was asked to coordinate that.

Mr. Jansen asked if the new tank will be bigger. Mr. Shea said he thought it would be about the same size with about the same footprint.

Mr. Rieger asked about the trail in the area. He asked that the work preserve the trail and if that is not possible, then to restore it when the work is done. Ms. Peterson and other committee members also asked that any work be mindful of the natural area as a whole.

ADJOURN

Ms. Petersen moved to adjourn and Mr. Jansen seconded and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Riefe