

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 5, 2015**

**Page | 1**

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Lisa Heavner called the special meeting of the open space committee to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2015. The meeting was held in the main meeting room of the Simsbury Town Offices located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. Also in attendance were the following committee members: Don Rieger, Ferg Jansen and Derek Peterson. Staff included the Director of Planning and Community Development Hiram Peck, Town Engineer Jeff Shea and intern Adam Hammershoy.

Ms. Heavner acknowledged the work of Mr. Peck and thanked him for his years of service and wished him the best in his new job.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

No one spoke formally during public audience but there were some comments made during discussion of 1 Old Bridge Road from Gerard H. Wetjen, a member of the culture, parks and recreation commission and from the Old Drake Hill Bridge of Flowers co-chairs Deeg Mackay and Sharene Wassell.

**Review/Adopt Minutes of June 3, 2015**

**Review/Adopt Minutes of June 17, 2015**

No changes were made to the minutes.

**OPEN SPACE INVENTORY UPDATE**

Mr. Hammershoy's presentation, Open Space Inventory Analysis 2015, was based on the work he started the first week of June and is still in progress. He has come up with best practices so whoever continues the work will have a process to follow. He explained his work, from collecting maps, property cards and deed information to visiting the parcel, putting up open space signs and writing field reports. All of the information is digital (GIS) and accessible in various formats, including binders, and searchable. His maps show where all the parcels are located in relation to each other; he relabeled the entire inventory so when looking at a sample you see the ID number, street it's located on, how many acres and different classifications. Some classifications include: an aquifer protection area, a buffer to habitat or wetlands, invasive plants, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land. He also notes where there is encroachment or dumping, for example. He also walked Ethel Walker Woods and mapped where hanger/hazards were located.

Mr. Rieger called it "wonderful work." Mr. Peterson asked if he saw dumping and Mr. Hammershoy said he did, mainly grass clippings. Mr. Jansen asked if Mr. Hammershoy was questioned by anyone while he was doing the work and he said in the beginning he was, but once he had his ID he was not.

**1 OLD BRIDGE ROAD UPDATE – POSSIBLE ACTION**

The committee went over the draft for possible opportunities for 1 Old Bridge Road that Mr. Rieger and Ms. Heavner worked on paragraph by paragraph, making changes until all were comfortable with the document. Also helping with input were: Mr. Wetjen, Ms. Mackay and Ms. Wassell. There was lots of discussion on issues ranging from plumbing and wiring to a restroom, garbage and a water fountain. There were also discussions on food trucks, commercial vendors and site rentals, among others.

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 5, 2015**

**P a g e | 2**

**MOTION:** Mr. Jansen made the motion to approve the recommendation for the future use of 1 Old Bridge Road as contained in the packet and that the Board of Selectmen adopt the recommendation of the Open Space Committee and authorize the hiring of a design consultant or other experts as needed. Mr. Rieger seconded and all voted in favor, the motion passed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rieger made the motion to adopt the Open Space Committee recommendation for the future use of 1 Old Bridge Road as a consensus document and recommend it to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Jansen seconded and all voted in favor, the motion passed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Mr. Jansen seconded and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Riefe