

1    **CALL TO ORDER**

2    First Selectman Lisa Heavner called the regular meeting of the Open Space Committee to order at 4:30  
3    PM on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. The meeting was held in the main meeting room of the  
4    Simsbury Town Offices located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. In attendance were the  
5    following committee members: Helen Peterson, William Rice, Donald Rieger, and David Ryan. Staff  
6    included Gerard Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation; and Assistant Town Planner Mike  
7    Glidden. Also in attendance was Sally Rieger of the Farmington Valley Wild and Scenic Committee.  
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9    **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

10   All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.  
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12   **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

13   No one spoke at public audience.  
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15   **REVIEW PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017**

16   The Committee reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2017. Ms. Peterson raised the issue of  
17   changing the time of the meetings. Ms. Heavner indicated that Town Staff attend more night meetings  
18   than most other towns and that holding the meeting at 4:30 permits staff to attend during regular  
19   office hours. The committee will have the ability to hold special meetings at different dates and times  
20   if needed. Dave Ryan made a motion to accept the proposed meeting schedule for 2017. The motion  
21   was seconded by Ms. Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.  
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23   All meetings will be at 4:30 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall. The regular meeting dates  
24   for 2017 are:

- 25  
26   Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
27   Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>  
28   Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>  
29   July – No meeting  
30   August – No meeting  
31   Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>  
32   Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.  
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34   **SIGNAGE ALONG RIVER DISCUSSION – PRESENTATION BY SALLY RIEGER**

35   Don Rieger recused himself from the discussion. Ms. Rieger presented a sample anti –litter signage  
36   from the Wild and Scenic Committee for the Open Space Committee to consider recommending for  
37   posting by the Sycamore Tree, at Curtiss Park and at Tariffville Park. The signs use English and Spanish  
38   and encourage visitors to take their trash with them when they leave. Ms. Heavner was concerned  
39   about consistency of signage along the Farmington River and asked whether there was standard sign  
40   with the same message from the National Park System. Ms. Rieger indicated that they designed the  
41   signs. Bloomfield has agreed to post them. Ms. Heavner indicated she would bring the sign to the  
42   Farmington Valley Collaborative to share and see what signage other towns use. Mr. Glidden  
43   distributed a memorandum regarding land use approvals for the signs. Ms. Peterson made a motion  
44   for a positive referral to the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by  
45   Mr. Ryan and passed unanimously.  
46

47 Mr. Rieger rejoined the meeting.

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49 **FOREST MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

50 Mr. Toner indicated that they had requested a Natural Diversity Database audit of the Onion Mountain  
51 Park area consistent with last meeting’s discussions. Ms. Peterson expressed her opinion that perhaps  
52 more pieces need to be explored relative to the final approval of the Forestry Management plan. Ms.  
53 Peterson gave a recap of the history of the Forest Management RFP done many years ago. It was  
54 decided that no action was required by this committee as the Conservation Commission had approved  
55 the plan. Mr. Rieger requested Mr. Glidden add as an agenda item at the next Conservation  
56 Commission discussion of the Forestry Management plan and that Ms. Peterson provide the  
57 Conservation Commission with a letter to give her input and to indicate her concerns. Ms. Heavner left  
58 the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Mr. Rice assumed the chairmanship.

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60 **TRAIL CONNECTION AT ONION MOUNTAIN PARK UPDATE**

61 Mr. Toner gave an update on the trail connection to Onion Mountain Park. The Canton Land Trust is  
62 doing some clearing. Simsbury is coordinating with the Canton Land Trust on blazing trails in a  
63 consistent manner.

64

65 **REVIEW/ADOPT MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2016**

66 Mr. Ryan made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rieger  
67 and unanimously approved.

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69 **ADJOURN**

70 Mr. Ryan made a motion to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peterson and  
71 approved unanimously.

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73 Respectfully submitted,

74 William F. Rice.