

From: Susan Mazurski May 10, 2012 11:46:47 AM
Subject: Open Space Committee Minutes 05/04/2011 Approved
To: SimsburyCT_OpenMin
Cc:

Open Space Committee Minutes - May 4, 2011

Chair Mary Glassman called the meeting to order at 4: 40 p.m. Attending were Glassman, Zoning Chair Jim Gallagher, Planning Chair Mike Paine, Magery Winters, and Helen Peterson arrived at 4:48 p.m.

Public Audience – Deputy First Selectman John Hampton attended in public audience.

March 2, 1010 minutes - Mr. Paine moved to adopt the minutes of March 2, 2010 with the correction of the spelling of Tulmeadow Farm. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Firetown Road Tobacco Shed – Town Engineer presented an update on the Firetown Road Tobacco shed repairs. He said the building could be used for Town storage either for use by farmers if the building can be secured or by Town staff. Mr. Gallagher indicated if the Town can use the building for something he would be inclined to support maintaining it. Ms. Winters expressed support for preserving the building since the other tobacco barns will soon be gone and the Town barn might be the only one remaining.

Mr. Hampton suggested that an alumni club of Griffin Land employees might be a good group to contact for information or funding.

Helen Peterson moved that the Open Space Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the tobacco barn be preserved and transfer funds of about \$37,000 to make the necessary repairs. Ms. Winters seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Glassman reported that the Town has received no update from the restrictions requested by the Town from Griffin Land.

Mrs. Glassman updated the committee on renewal of agricultural leases to farmers for Town owned land.

Mr. Paine moved to renew all leases with the farmers as reviewed by Mr. Sawitzke. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed

unanimously.

Mrs. Glassman updated the committee on the Simsbury Land Trust's plans to acquire the Tulmeadow Woodlot. Because of legal difficulties, the Land Trust has informed the Town that it will need the Town's assistance in taking ownership of the property and then transferring the land to the Land Trust. While the action will not require additional funding, it will require a Special Town Meeting for approval.

Mr. Sawitzke recommended that the Land Trust ensure that the public access requirements are met in order to secure funding. Ms. Winters stated she will ensure the Land Trust receives the information.

Mr. Gallagher moved to recommend that the Board of Selectmen hold a Special Town Meeting to assist the Simsbury Land Trust's purchase of the Tulmeadow Woodlot and to recommend that all public access requirements are met. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The approval was unanimous.

Mr. Gallagher moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman