

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 9th, 2011
Colchester Town Hall 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting

Received for record at Colchester, Conn.
on November 10, 2011 at 3:40 p.m.
Attest, Nancy A. Bray, Town Clerk

Members Present: Chairman Nick Norton, Vice Chairman Adam Turner, William Hochholzer, Jay Gigliotti, Ted Fuini, John Henley, Rosemary Coyle BOS Liaison

Members Absent: None

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman N. Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Vice Chairman A. Turner motioned that Item 5.a. "Open Space matrix" be removed from the agenda and that under item 6, Any Other Business Deemed Necessary "b. White Oak Tree Maintenance" be added to the Agenda. Seconded by J. Gigliotti. All members voted in favor. **Motion carried.**
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the July 12th, 2011 Meeting Minutes:**
W. Hochholzer motioned to approve the July 12th, 2011 minutes. Seconded by A. Turner. All Members voted in Favor. **Motion Carried**
4. **Land Acquisitions**
 - a. **Joseph Piechta Land- Subdivision w/ Proposed Open Space**

Vice Chairman A. Turner explained that the Colchester Conservation Commission had received an application for a 7-Lot Subdivision. The applicant for this subdivision is proposing Open Space per the Subdivision regulations. J. Gigliotti gave an overview of the proposed subdivision and provided a power point presentation that showed the layout and the location of the proposed open space. The power point showed the Open Space Committee the Town's existing open space and established greenways, highlighted the fact that the proposed open space is in the area of other Town owned land holdings and that the land would extend one the of the Town's established Greenways. J. Gigliotti explained that the Colchester Land Trust owns land that abuts the proposed open space. A. Turner explained that the proposed piece fell in line with the Towns Greenway and that the Town did have other holdings in the area, such as Ruby Cohen property and multiple conservation easements within the Shadbush Dr. subdivision. R. Coyle asked A. Turner to review some of the particulars of the land. Discussion followed about the land's size, location and features. W. Hochholzer stated that the Land trust had walked the property in February when the piece was extremely wet. He felt that the proposed open space would suit the land trust well due to the fact that they own land the directly abuts the proposed

open space. J. Henley asked about access to the open space. A. Turner explained that the access to the open space would depend on who took control of the land. For example, if the Town or another land preservation entity took control, then some type of access easement would have to be established. If the Colchester Land Trust then they could probably provide access through their property on McDonald Rd.

W. Hochholzer motioned that the proposed open space be accepted as presented, being that the land falls within the Town's Open Space Greenway and with other land holdings within the area and be taken control by either the Town, Land Trust, Public Utility Company or any other acceptable land preservation entity. Seconded by A. Turner. All members voted in Favor.

Motion Carried.

5. Open Space Plan Review

- a. **Open Space Matrix** – This item was removed from the agenda

6. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary

- a. **2012 Meeting Schedule**- Vice Chairman A. Turner Motioned to accept and approve the 2012 Meeting Schedule as presented. Seconded by J. Henley. All members voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**
- b. **White Oak Tree Maintenance**- A. Turner stated that at the last regular meeting of the Open Space Committee, staff explained the necessity to perform maintenance on the this tree. The tree is focal point of the Open Space at the White Oak Farm Subdivision and is the fourth largest White Oak tree in CT. After years of neglect, the tree, is in despair and is in need of some help. A. Turner explained to the Committee the plan that staff had formulated to help aid the tree in its survival. Basically there are three components to the maintenance. 1. Removal of all of the dead or dying limbs. These limbs harbor disease and pose a safety risk. 2. Clear cut all the vegetation from the base of the tree out in a 60ft radius in order to remove the competition for sunlight, water and nutrients out of the way. 3. Remove as many of the vines that are hanging on the tree. These vines also compete for sunlight. A. Turner also mentioned that he had been contacted by an individual who would be willing to, by either himself or through his company, to fund the restoration plan. Staff will keep the Committee updated.

7. Adjournment

J. Gigliotti Motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice Chairman Turner. All Members voted in favor. **Motion carried.** Chairman N. Norton adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm

Respectively submitted, Jay Gigliotti