



TOWN OF OLD LYME

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OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Minutes – Regular Meeting

January 10, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

Mezzanine of the Memorial Town Hall

Call-In Phone: 1-605-472-5727 Access Code 3819718

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Gregory Futoma called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. **Attendance:**

Present Board Members: Chair Gregory Futoma, Vice Chair Michael Aurelia, Fred Behringer, Andrea Fenton, Evan Griswold (seated as a voting member) and Secretary Anne Redfield.

Guests: Teri Lewis, Michael Barnes - Harbor Management Commission, and Karen Archer - Old Lyme Land Trust and 5 applicants for the vacant seats on the commission: Russell Linderman, Joan Meek, Maria Correo Marchant, Christine MacGregor, Robert Antoniac, Jr. .

Andrea Fenton made a MOTION to amend today's agenda. The 2024 Annual Organization Meeting Election of Officer item is deleted and will be discussed at the February 2024 meeting. Mike Aurelia SECONDED.

DISCUSSION: None. Vote 6 ayes. The MOTION PASSED.

Greg Futoma said Amanda Blair resigned her position. Greg thanked her for her many years of service and dedication to the town. She worked tirelessly to complete the McCullogh property acquisition and we appreciate her efforts.

The 5 applicants introduced themselves and voiced their interest in joining the commission.

3. **Approval of December 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Andrea Fenton made a MOTION to approve the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes and Fred Behringer SECONDED. DISCUSSION: None. Vote 6 ayes. The MOTION PASSED.

4. **Public Comment**

None

5. **Open Space Business**

a) *Horseneck Creek Landing Installation of Split Rail Fencing*

Greg Futoma summarized the fence installation discussions and site visits.

Mike Aureli made a MOTION to extend the existing fence to a point a few feet away from the right of way on the eastern and western sides of the abutter's driveway. Anne Redfield SECONDED. DISCUSSION: There was a brief discussion of wetland soil conditions on the eastern end of the boundary, and examples of boundary line demarcations on other open space properties. Vote 6 ayes. The MOTION PASSED.

Site Work

Greg Futoma stated that the Horseneck Creek trail has been flagged with yellow markers, and observed that the right of way must be kept clear. There was discussion of the need for ensuring that the parking area would provide emergency services with a clear path to the dock should there be an incident. A future topic for discussion is roadway maintenance. Open Space will be removing a dead tree that might pose a potential hazard.

Status of Dock Application Teri Lewis, Michael Barnes Harbor Management Commission



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Teri and Mike gave an overview of the application process and design choices, which must comply with state regulations, and ADA requirements. Timeline: application will be completed within the next month. The application approval could take several months. When approved, the permit is valid for 5 years.

b) Land Steward Report

Peter Norris's report said all trails are in good condition with lots of wet areas. He spotted spray painted graffiti on some rocks, removal solutions and tools were discussed. Barthlomew bridge needs to be rebuilt.

c) Open Space FY 2024/2025 Budget

Greg Futoma said the operating budget was increased by 2% and is set at \$21,264. Additional capital funds for Ferry Landing will be advanced over the next fiscal years, as per the Board of Finance's original approval for this multi-year project.

d) Ferry Landing Wildlife Refuge, Anne Redfield

The two consultants' final reports have been received and shared with the commission members. Anne is working to download and parse data from Nancy Marek's drone fly overs and GIS research, using a new software program. All funds from the Community Fund of Eastern CT grant have been expended, and the final grant report has been delivered. The phragmites management contractor will apply for calendar year 2024 permit to allow a second treatment this fall; mowing of the dead phragmites will take place early this spring.

Upcoming conference dates, Andrea Fenton

Andrea provided dates for the Connecticut Land Conservation Council seminars and conferences. There was a discussion about joining the CLCC and Greg will be looking into the cost.

6. Open Space 2024 Objectives

Greg Futoma continues to work on the cloud storage project for the PC files and the proposed scanning project for paper files. He will continue to work closely with the Land Trust and collaborate with the Affordable Housing Commission. Other projects include updating the labeling of town GIS information, updating the Open Space page on the Town website, and hiring a second Land Steward.

7. New Business

Andrea Fenton said there is a Hartford Audubon Society grant available and reported that signs are up at the Barbizon oak at Champlain North. Let her know if there are any projects coming up that the Lyme-Old Lyme High School Sustainability/Environmental Club could assist with.

8. Adjourn

Fred Behringer made a MOTION to adjourn at 6:43 and Anne Redfield SECONDED. DISCUSSION: None. Vote 6 ayes. The MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Redfield, Secretary