



TOWN OF OLD LYME

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OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Minutes – Regular Meeting

November 8, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Hall 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 5:01 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.
Via Phone: Amanda Blair
Guest: Karen Archer. Old Lyme Land Trust
3. **Approval of October 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
Mike Aurelia made a MOTION to approve the October 11, 2023 meeting minutes and Evan Griswold SECONDED. DISCUSSION: None. Vote 6 ayes, Fred Behringer abstained. The MOTION PASSED.
4. **Public Comment**
None
5. **Open Space Business**
 - a) Commission Member Terms/Recruitment
Anne Redfield's term is expiring in January 2024; she has offered to remain for another term. A voting member and two alternate Open Space Commission positions are vacant.
 - b) Horseneck Creek Landing Update – Review of Grant Application
Greg Futoma has drafted an application for a Rockfall Foundation grant to fund interpretive and educational materials for Horseneck Creek Landing. Audubon/Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center will cooperate with programming to encourage bird watching. There may be additional grant funding opportunities through Hartford Audubon Society and CT Ornithological Association. Discussion turned to the installation of a fence to recognize the town and abutting private property owner's boundary line. Fred made a MOTION to locate the fence generally adjacent to the boundary and to enter into an indemnification agreement with the abutting property owner. Anne SECONDED. DISCUSSION: The fence placement was discussed, along with the need for an indemnification agreement. Vote 6 ayes, Amanda Blair abstained. The MOTION PASSED.
 - c) Ferry Landing Wildlife Refuge (FLWR) Update - Phragmites Project - CFECT grant
Anne met with DEEP staff and tagged invasive trees that we are requesting be removed on the state property that adjoins FLWR. DEEP will consider next steps and get back to us with a decision. The phragmites spraying took place on October 11, 2023. A new permit will be required for an additional treatment in 2024. It was discovered that the drone flyover by our mapping consultant would require a permit. A permit has been requested from the DEEP Commissioner. Anne provided an update on the balance of our CFECT grant and asked for feedback on a draft of language for a notice to be posted on the kiosk at Ferry Landing.
 - d) Bartholomew Open Space -Bridge Options
A trail bridge has been damaged by water flow and needs replacement. Andrea and Amanda have knowledgeable contacts willing to assist with construction. An Inland Wetlands Commission approval for bridge construction remains valid.



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e) McCulloch Family Open Space - TNC Inspection

Greg Futoma, Michael Aurelia, Evan Griswold and steward Wayne Abrahamson walked the property with a representative of The Nature Conservancy as a condition of the open space's conservation easement. There was a discussion concerning mowing on the property and whether unauthorized trail work had been conducted. A news article indicated that plans are proceeding to use two building envelopes for affordable housing, with the Board of Selectmen approving a funding request from the Affordable Housing Commission.

f) Community Outreach – Andrea Fenton

Andrea inquired about the installation of various purchased open space signs. There was a discussion about placement of signs near the Barbizon Oak on Champlain North and the re-routing of a trail near the tree. Andrea shared that the new Lyme-Old Lyme High School Environmental Club advisor is interested in projects for students.

g) Planning Commission Referral

The Planning Commission referred a re-subdivision application on Machnik Drive to the Open Space Commission for comment. The applicant has filed for a waiver of any open space dedication which the Commission will not oppose.

h) Land Steward Report(s) – Michael Aurelia

Mike will be meeting with the stewards to review work issues. The stewards are being issued Town of Old Lyme identification.

6. New Business - None

7. Adjourn

Evan Griswold made a MOTION to adjourn at 6:50 and Fred Behringer SECONDED. DISCUSSION: None. Vote 7 ayes. The MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Redfield, Secretary