

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Regular Meeting
February 17, 2011
Newington Town Hall
5:30 P.M.

I. Roll Call

The following members were present: Chairman Bowen, Mrs. Conway, Mr. Bottalico, Mr. Marcinczyk, Mrs. Nasinnyk and Mr. Nagel and Ms. Wojtowicz.

Staff present: Town Planner, Edmund Meehan

II. Minutes

January 20, 2011 Regular Meeting – Mrs. Nasinnyk moved that the minutes be approved as presented, seconded by Mr. Bottalico and approved.

III. Public Participation

Roy Zartarian, 25 Stewart Street, reported on the observation by a Hartford Audubon Club member of a Peregrine Falcon near the Cedar Hill Cemetery along the Newington section of the ridgeline. This bird is on the State's endangered list. Chairman Bowen requested the observer follow-up with an e-mail to confirm date and location. Mr. Zartarian said he would forward the e-mail to Mr. Meehan.

Gail Ruduccha, Schoolhouse Crossing, Wethersfield, reported that she is attending the Open Space Committee to keep track of the Toll Brothers project. She has been told by a member of the Wethersfield Town Council that a project on the Balf Company property with access from Russell Road is required to be referred to Wethersfield land use officials.

IV. New Business

A. Subcommittee Reports

- (i) Land Trust Organization
Ed Meehan requested that the correct legal name and incorporation date of the land trust be provided to include in the Committee's PowerPoint presentation to the Town Council on February 22, 2011.
- (ii) Open Space Grants – No report
- (iii) Open Space Properties – No report

B. Draft 2010 Open Space Committee Report to Town Council

Chairman Bowen invited all Committee members to attend the presentation to the Town Council on February 22, 2011.

A letter was prepared to the Town Council on funding appropriation to the Town's Land Acquisition Fund.

The letter will be sent to the Town Manager requesting the consideration of incremental appropriations over time to accumulate a sufficient fund to acquire property for open space preservation.

Ed Meehan reported that he researched the question raised by Mr. Bottalico at the last Committee meeting. In Wethersfield the Town bonded \$3.7 million in 2006 for open space acquisitions. These funds, plus a \$490,000 DEP grant, will be used to purchase the Wilkus Farm property. The Trust for Public Land is assisting the Town and sellers to complete the deal. The price for the 81 acres is \$3.5 million.

The Committee reviewed the draft PowerPoint presentation and concurred to go ahead with the draft for presentation on February 22, 2011.

V. Public Participation

Gail Ruduccha asked about the status of Ancient Highway as a historical site that should be protected. Mrs. Conway noted that the MDC water tower and water main are located in the right of way of Ancient Highway.

VI. Old Business

Cedar Mountain Real Estate

Mrs. Conway moved that the Committee go into executive session to discuss potential property acquisition on Cedar Mountain. Seconded by Mr. Marcinczyk and approved. The executive session began at 6:30 p.m. and the Committee came out of executive session at 6:40 p.m.

VII. Remarks by Committee Members

NONE

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan
Town Planner

Town Clerk