

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

I. Roll Call

The following members were present: Chairman Bowen, Mrs. Conway, Mr. Block, Mr. Bottalico, Mr. Marcinczyk and Mr. Turco.

Staff present: Town Planner, Edmund Meehan

Mr. Bottalico noted this would be his last meeting as he will now be serving on the Town Council.

II. Minutes

February 17, 2011 Regular Meeting – Mrs. Conway moved that the minutes be approved as presented, seconded by Mr. Bottalico and approved.

III. Public Participation

Roy Zartarian, 25 Stewart Street, was present and reported that the Hartford Audubon Society publication, "State of Birds in Connecticut," discusses the importance of maintaining adequate forest cover for birds.

Mr. Clark Castelle, 167 Connecticut Avenue, requested the Committee to keep in mind the fiscal impact costs of new residential development versus the benefits of maintaining open space.

IV. New Business

A. Land Trust – Mrs. Conway reported that the land trust will soon have its website ready and would like to link off the Town website.

B. Open Space Grants – No report.

C. Potential Open Space Properties – Chairman Bowen requested members to review the open space inventory report and at the Committee's April meeting be prepared to list their top 5 parcels for preservation. From this list the Committee will determine where there is a consensus for priority parcels.

V. 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. Bottalico and approved. Mr. Turco excused himself and stated that as a TPZ member he felt it was appropriate not to participate in the executive session.

The executive session began at 6:20 p.m. and ended at 6:50 p.m.

VI. Public Participation

NONE

VII. Remarks by Committee Members

Chairman Bowen asked Mr. Meehan and Committee members for their input on the process for reviewing Toll Brothers proposed Cedar Mountain development plans. Mr. Meehan recommended that after receipt of Toll Brothers applications, the Committee could review and comment on the proposed open space dedication. These comments should be submitted to Inland Wetlands Agency and the Town Plan and Zoning Commission at the public hearings and be part of the record. The consensus of the Committee was that Toll Brothers should be invited to make their presentation to the Open Space Committee as soon as possible, before applications are submitted to the Inland Wetlands Agency and Town Plan and Zoning Commission. Mr. Block further suggested that the Committee should request the Inland Wetlands Agency to require Toll Brothers to conduct a biological reconnaissance of the Cedar Mountain habitat and report its findings to the land use boards.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan
Town Planner

Town Clerk
Town Website