



TOWN OF OLD LYME

www.oldlyme-ct.gov

OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Minutes – Regular Meeting

May, 10, 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 5:02 p.m.

2. **Attendance:**

Present Board Members: Chair Gregory Futoma, Vice Chair Michael Aurelia, Fred Behringer, Amanda Blair, Andrea Fenton, Evan Griswold and Secretary Anne Redfield.

Guest: John Noyes

Greg Futoma announced Claudio Denoya's resignation effective May 9, 2023 and thanked him for his service.

Greg also said Evan Griswold is a voting member today.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** April 12, 2023

Andrea Fenton made a MOTION to approve the April 12, 2023 regular meeting minutes and Anne Redfield SECONDED. DISCUSSION: Amanda Blair had three changes. The Call-In Phone information should have been listed, Suzanne Colton-Carey was attending as a guest along with John Noyes. Greg asked that the typo be corrected in Item 7. d. (Tract to Track) Vote 7 ayes. The MOTION PASSED with the stated amendments.

4. **Public Comment:**

Suzanne Colton-Carey said the Land Trust will be asking the people that attend the Hikers Happy Hour to sign in at the Old Lyme Inn. They would like to get a sense of who is attending and assess future involvement. They will fulfill their commitment for this year.

Suzanne said she would no longer be attending Open Space meetings. She would like to continue to receive an Agenda and would attend if she felt it was necessary.

Terry Lewis of the Harbor Management Commission had just come from Horseneck Creek Landing property and saw that the trail was marked out and asked why Harbor Management (HM) wasn't invited to assist. Fred Behringer said they intended to get in touch after Open Space Commission members had had a chance to view and agree on what would be proposed. Greg had a sample of the sign and everyone liked it after agreeing to omit "Dock & Natural Area". Terry remarked that she had noticed dirt being brought down to Amanda Blair's property via the town road and feels both commissions should know what is going on. Amanda is building a berm on her property, but stated she has not used town property or a tractor.

5. **Old Business:**

- Creation of a "Noyes Family Open Space"

John Noyes was present and pleased with the name. Anne Redfield made a MOTION to accept the name "Noyes Family Open Space" and Fred Behringer SECONDED. DISCUSSION: None. Vote 7 ayes. The MOTION PASSED.

- Acceptance of a 1.88 acre parcel as Town Open Space, pursuant to the subdivision of 21 and 39 Buttonball Road properties.

There will be a Town Meeting on Monday to accept the parcel. Mike will give a presentation at the meeting. Evan Griswold made a MOTION to accept the said parcel and Anne Redfield SECONDED. DISCUSSION: Amanda would like Open Space to be involved earlier in the process when new land is being developed. She suggested a work shop with the appropriate commissions. Vote 7 ayes. The MOTION PASSED.



OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

- Ferry Landing Wildlife Refuge Update – Anne Redfield
Anne said the plants are in the ground and it was a great group effort. She hired an intern and asked that commission members help her define his deliverables and spend some time guiding him. The phragmites management RFP has been posted on the Town website.
 - Steward to Maintain Open Space Trails
Greg is hoping to hire a parttime steward and will post the position on the Town website.
 - Ames Open Space Trail Use – Michael Aurelia, Andrea Fenton
Shadow trails need to be rested, jumps removed, unauthorized area signs posted and yellow nylon rope installed. Work with the CT Mountain Bikers Assoc. to spread the word about responsible biking. Set up a meeting for other OS commissioners to view the jumps and shadow trails.
 - Horseneck Creek Landing Property Update – Fred Behringer
Fred expects the trail to be completed this summer. There is an abundance of cat-briar that protects the marsh.
 - Champlain North – signs, barrier fence
Signs are done and look great
 - Affordable Housing/ McCulloch Building Envelopes
The grant expiration date was extended at the BOS meeting last Monday and the Affordable Housing committee is talking with Habitat for Humanity.
6. **Community Outreach:** Andrea Fenton
Andrea said volunteers will be honored on May 18, @8:00 a. m. at the central office. She asked everyone to attend. Future volunteers will be from the Community Club vs the Environmental Club, but there will be opportunities to collaborate with the high school.
7. **New Business:**
Greg handed out a PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program form.
- Denise Savageau was present and said she attended the Inland Wetlands Commission site walk on the 21 & 39 Buttonball Rd. property. It is mostly woodland with a small wetland area and a vernal pool.
8. **Executive Session** – discussion of possible Open Space land acquisition
Anne MOTIONED to enter Executive Session, Andrea SECONDED; session commenced at 7:02.
9. **Adjourn**
Andrea made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:06 and /Fred SECONDED. DISCUSSION: None. Vote 7 ayes. The MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne McAuliffe, Clerk