

Open Space Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 8, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Old Lyme Town Hall

Members Present: Chair Gregory Futoma, Fred Behringer, Claudio Denoya, Andrea Fenton, Evan Griswold and Secretary Anne Redfield.

Members Absent: Vice Chair Michael Aurelia, Amanda Blair

1. Call to Order by Evan Griswold at 5:03
2. Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2023
Anne Redfield motioned to approve the minutes and Greg Futoma seconded. There was no discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Annual Organization Meeting
 - a. Election of Officers: Evan Griswold presented the slate of officers as:
Gregory Futoma – Chair
Michael Aurelia – Vice Chair
Anne Redfield – Secretary

Fred Behringer moved from an alternate to a full member and Evan Griswold moved to an alternate position.

Andrea Fenton motioned to approve the slate and Fred Behringer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Greg thanked Evan for stepping down to alternate to allow new Vice Chair Michael Aurelia to become a regular member.

He also thanked Amanda Blair for her years of service as Co-Chair and in particular her shepherding of the McCulloch property acquisition to completion.

- b. Bylaws Review: Greg Futoma asked if there were any concerns with the current Bylaws and all members agreed a review was not needed at this time.

Evan Griswold motioned to amend today's Agenda by moving #5 (Community Outreach) to #4 and moving #7 (36-1 Buttonball Road Property Committee) to #5. Claudio Denoya seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Community Outreach: Andrea Fenton, Justin Greene, Lyme-Old Lyme High School Bicycle Club
Justin Greene and 3 other members of the high school Bicycle Club offered their services to assist maintaining the town's open space trails. Greg Futoma welcomed their offer and Andrea Fenton will be coordinating a meeting to introduce them to land steward, Peter Norris. Brian Greenho, an organizer of the Tour de Lyme and a Lyme Land Trust land steward, joined the conversation by phone, and offered his expertise on trail maintenance for bicycle use as well.
Andrea Fenton also provided information she had gathered on pricing for a sign for the Barbizon Oak at Champlain North.
5. 36-1 Buttonball Road Property Committee: Fred Behringer
Fred Behringer reported that representatives of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) presented a preliminary concept of their proposal for use of the 36-1 Buttonball Road property at the last meeting of the committee. The hydrographic survey commissioned by HMC showed that there is enough water at low tide for a kayak. The renderings include a dock, viewing platforms, parking spaces and a fence to protect the marsh. Teri Lewis, HMC member who was in attendance at the meeting as a member of the public, provided additional details about the preliminary concept renderings.
6. Land Steward Report
Peter Norris' report indicated nothing new for the month of January. All agreed that Peter Norris does an excellent job as OS steward, however, as he is away for a portion of calendar year, Greg Futoma suggested the

commission explore hiring a part-time steward to coordinate schedules with his absences. The commission has sufficient funds in its budget for this.

7. Open Space Property Updates

- a. Champlain North: Greg Futoma noted that Amanda Blair had requested a quote from land steward Jim Mildrum and a local contractor to construct a semi-circular safety fence around the Barbizon Oak.
- b. Bartholomew: It was also noted that Amanda Blair reported a bridge across a stream in Bartholomew is unsteady. Greg Futoma shared images of the bridge. A new design will be considered.

8. Ferry Landing Project: Anne Redfield

Anne Redfield completed a grant report summary and she is motivated to move forward with next steps for the habitat restoration work at the Ferry Landing property, which will include management of invasive phragmites and planting of natives in the upland areas. Best practice, and DEEP-recommended approach to phragmites management involves herbicide use in conjunction with physical removal. The Open Space herbicide policy was amended last year, to allow judicious use of permitted herbicides in certain cases. Fred Behringer motioned to approve the use of herbicides to control phragmites at Ferry Landing. Greg Futoma seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Anne Redfield said she would request a current proposal from a professional contractor for the phragmites management project. Varieties and sources for native woodland plantings will also be investigated.

9. Inland Wetlands Commission Report: Evan Griswold, nothing to report

10. New Business : None

11. Public Comment: None

12. Adjourn: Anne Redfield motioned to adjourn, and Claudio Denoya seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne McAuliffe