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## Town of Vernon

# Open Space Task Force



Minutes of Monthly Meeting February 11, 2013

*Meeting Location: The meeting was held at 14 Park Place. The meeting room was changed from Town Council Chambers to an open room on the first floor since the TC chambers were locked.*

### Call to order and seating:

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 pm by Chairman Ann Letendre. Members present were Tom Ouellette, Russ Kunz, Ann Letendre.

### 1.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of January, 2013 were approved. Motion by Tom, second by Russ, motion carried.

### 2.0 Old Business

#### 2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation:

##### **Farmland Preservation – Strong Farm.**

Russ reported that Nancy Strong is continuing to set up the non-profit, and they are planning community events.

**Petrin property** – No new action.

**Gunther Property (5 acres in Vernon, remaining acreage in Tolland)** – No new action reported.

**Additional items:** **Clark Farm** will be added to the agenda since it is defined as a 2013 goal to focus on the two heritage farm properties. Ann will ask Linda Morhardt, a friend and neighbor of the family, if there is any update with the family's intent.

#### 2.2 Open Space & Farmland Preservation Funding - Update

**Local Funding** – no change

**State Funding** - no change

### 3.0 New Business –

**3.1 Discussion – Inventory of agricultural soils.** The OSTF discussed going ahead with mapping of “locally important agricultural soils”. If this mapping is done in a community, the community is ranked higher in consideration for FRPP (Federal Ranchlands Protection) program open space funding. FRPP is a possible source of funds for purchase of the Strong Farm (and possibly Clark Farm). The Natural Resources Conservation Service does the mapping. A letter from the Mayor to the NRCS is needed for them to do the mapping. Before we ask the Mayor to write the

request letter, Ann will call NRCS to better understand what is entailed in the mapping – i.e., is it simply a computer mapping, or are site visits required?

**3.2 Review Goals** – The 2013 goals are: (1) Focus on preserving the Strong Farm and Clark Farm; (2) Update the Vernon open space data (3) Write article for newspapers on accomplishments of past few years (parcels preserved, regulation changes, POCD work).

**3.3 Upcoming Conferences and Workshops: Land Trust Conference and Healthfest**  
Land trust conference is March 23<sup>rd</sup>; Ann may possibly attend. Healthfest is April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. OSTF will combine displays with the CC.

**3.4 Preservation in Perpetuity** – Ann reported that the state environmental leaders have been working on the legislation, LCCC and Rivers Alliance, likely to be introduced into the legislature in 2013. No new updates as of this date (Feb 11).

#### **4.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM. Motion by Tom, second by Russ.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ann Letendre, Chairperson**