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Town of Vernon

Open Space Task Force

Minutes of Monthly Meeting January 14, 2013

Meeting Location: Town Hall Council Chambers, 14 Park Place

Present: Tom Ouellette, Russ Kunz, Ginny Gingras, Ann Letendre, Chairman

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm.

1.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of May, 2012 were approved. Motion by Ginny, second by Russ, motion carried.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation:

Farmland Preservation – Strong Farm.

Ann reported that the Strong trust reviewed the appraisal by Tom Henry of the two parcels owned by the family trust, but the trust has decided not to sell at this value at this time. Russ reported that work continues on the Friends of the Strong Farm organization 501c(3) for the 7-acre parcel on which the house and barn are sited.

Petrin property – No new action.

Tancanhoosen LLC Parcel Update – As an update for the record, Ann reported that DEEP announced the purchase of 449.4 acres preserved for open space for \$2.9 million in spring at a dedication ceremony June 22, 2012. The parcel was a priority preservation parcel on our Vernon Open Space Plan. Ann noted that 2012 was a successful year for open space in Vernon, with the preservation of the Tankerhoosen Gorge also, as well as the Gunther property. Ginny feels an article for local newspapers should be done regarding the accomplishments of open preservation in 2012.

Gunther Property (5 acres in Vernon, remaining acreage in Tolland) – Ginny reported that the purchase is in progress, and that TAC has received a Federal Ranchlands Preservation grant, matched by state DEEP open space grant to fund the purchase. She also reported that the Environmental Review Team had completed a review of the property, and provided a copy of the report.

Additional Open Space Parcel Evaluation – No further action.

2.2 Open Space & Farmland Preservation Funding - Update

2.2.1 Local Funding – no change

2.2.2 State Funding - no change

3.0 New Business –

3.1 Discussion – Natural Resource Inventory – Discussed at CC meeting

3.2 Review – open space preservations were noted above; goals for 2013 are to focus on the Strong Farm and Clark Farm as preservations

3.3 Land Trust Conference – Ann noted that announced date of the conference and sent email of announcement; also the Healthfest – the OSTF will join with the CC in the display

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.

4.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM. Motion by Tom, second by Russ.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, Chairperson