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Town of Vernon

Open Space Task Force



Minutes of Special Meeting December 17, 2018

Meeting Location: The meeting was held in Town Hall, 14 Park Place, Rm 1 lobby.

Call to order and seating:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by acting chairman Ann Letendre. Members present were Tom Ouellette, Karl Hasel, Ginny Gingras, and Ann Letendre.

1.0 Approval of Minutes

Task Force quarterly meetings for March, June, and September 2017 were cancelled. The chairman was notified by the Town Clerk that the agenda for the Dec. 18, 2017 meeting was filed too late, the meeting had to be cancelled. Task Force meetings for March, June and September 2018 were cancelled.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation:

Farmland Preservation – Strong Farm

Paperwork is still in process at DEEP, NRCS and CFT. Most recent discussion with CFT indicates a closing may occur before March 31, 2019. Easement language has been resolved and is in the AGs office awaiting approval.

Petrin property – Appraisal completed in July. No further action.

Clark Farm - The property was put in family trust. Next steps for OSTF are TBD.

2.2 Open Space & Farmland Preservation Funding - Update

Local Funding – no change

State Funding - OSWA grant applications due Feb 2019. No applications are planned for Vernon properties.

3.0 New Business –

3.1 Update of Rev. 3 Open Space Plan, dated 2005.

OSTF reviewed the document “Revision 3, Proposed Open Space System, Town of Vernon”, dated October 12, 2005. OSTF members agreed that the goals of the Plan, established in the first version of the Plan in 1998, remained the same. Update to priority parcel status was discussed. Four priority parcels have been preserved since 2005: Tancanhoosen LLC, 450 acres; Gunther Family Partnership, 4.6 acres; one of the four John Talcott Trustee parcels known as Talcottville Gorge, 20 acres; and Strong Farm, 51 acres. One parcel is no longer available, listed as Falkenstein, 36 acres.

Portions of two parcels along the Hockanum River are in progress of preservation, as part of development projects.

Other minor updates to the text were needed and agreed to: OSTF membership, page 1; references to the 2012 POCD, page 2; and note added in regard to the Town Open Space Ordinance #228, page 2.

Motion was made by Tom Ouellette to reaffirm the goals stated in the document “Revision 3, Proposed Open Space System, Town of Vernon”, to update the status of priority parcel acquisition in the document and rename the revised document Revision 4, dated December 17, 2018; minor text updates also to be made to pages 1 and 2 regarding OSTF membership and POCD reference.” Motion seconded by Karl Hasel, motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Meeting Dates 2019. Meeting dates for 2019 were set. The meetings are to be held quarterly, at 6:30 pm, prior to the Conservation Commission meetings, Town Council Chambers. Dates are March 18, June 17, Sept 16 and Dec. 16.

4.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8.17 PM. Motion by Tom, second by Ginny.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, acting Chairperson