

draft

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK

10 AUG -2 AM 8:36

Town of Vernon

Open Space Task Force



Minutes of Monthly Meeting July 12, 2010

Meeting Location: Vernon Police Station Community Room West Rd

Present: Tom Ouellette, Ginny Gingras, Karl Hasel, Ann Letendre, chairperson

Guests: Gail Faherty, Amy Paterson

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

1.0 Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes of May 10, 2010, were approved; motion by Gingras, second by Hasel.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation:

Talcott Property – Talcottville Gorge Amy Paterson reported that she had been contacted by Don Quinn, attorney for John Talcott, Jr. They are interested in donating the Gorge, via the 'bargain sale' means. Discussion regarding who would take ownership of the property: Hasel and Faherty, representing Northern CT Land Trust (NCLT), said that the NCLT was interested in taking ownership. Letendre noted that a local organization (Vernon Citizens for Responsible Development) was interested in taking on stewardship of lands within the Tankerhoosen watershed, and this might work out to be a possible partnership for that purpose. Next steps: Paterson will contact Don Quinn and ask him to obtain quotes for update of the appraisal, and re-survey of the land. Letendre will ask Jim Luddeke about availability of Open Space funds in the account for these purposes. The NCLT will draft a letter of intent to take ownership of the property.

Farmland Preservation – Strong Farm No new activity

Petrin property – No report

Tankerhoosen LLC Parcel Update – No new activity

Gunther Property – No new activity

Additional Open Space Parcel Evaluation – Two additional parcels under consideration, (1) confluence of the Tankerhoosen and Hockanum Rivers to be considered for inclusion in the OS Plan. Resources in the area will need to be researched first. RBV data is taken on the Tankerhoosen side of the confluence each year. (2) 60 Frontage Road, portion of land adjacent to the River (wetlands).

2.2 Open Space & Farmland Preservation Funding - Update

2.2.1 **Local Funding** – no change

2.2.2 **State Funding** – Letendre and Paterson reported that the state open space program has been funded for \$5M. Paterson will contact DEP to inquire their interest in re-considering the Tankerhoosen LLC land.

2.3 Conservation Commission Activities –

- 2.3.1 Aquatic Invasives** – Tom Ouelette reported that VF Pond and Walkers East had been treated w/ herbicide for removal of milfoil in VF Pond and fanwort in WRE.
- 2.3.2 POCD** – no new activity
- 2.3.3 Tankerhoosen AI Streamwalk** - Tom Ouellette reported that the training session and streamwalk is set for July 24. Due to lack of rain and low water levels, DEP has cautioned that volunteers should try not to disturb the river bottom.

2.4 Update on 2009 Goals

- 2.4.1 OSTF Membership** – We are down to four members. There have been no appointments forthcoming.
 - 2.4.1.1 Resolution of OSTF status w/ Town, fill vacancies** – Ann feels part of the lack of appointments on the part of Administration is the confusion of the OSTF authority – that is, whether or not it is a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. Action still pending: Ann will try to get time with Administration to address it.
- 2.4.2 Public Education – Town Council presentation, local access presentation, publication of booklet, articles for Horizon, RR** – Action still pending: Ann will call Joe Grabinski to do a piece for his cable program.
- 2.4.3 Support of Plan of Conservation & Development:** Letendre reported that Planimetrics has completed Booklet #5 on Development, and it is on the Town website.
- 2.4.4 Sponsorship – hikes, other?** None

3.0 New Business – no new business

4.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM, motion by Gingras, second by Ouelette.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, Co-chairperson