

**draft**

# Town of Vernon

## Open Space Task Force

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### Minutes of Monthly Meeting May 11, 2009

**Meeting Location: Vernon Police Station Community Room, West Road**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.**

**Present:** George Arthur, Ann Letendre, Tom Ouellette, Russ Kunz;  
Co-chair George Arthur presided.

#### **1.0 Approval of Minutes –**

- 1.1 Minutes of February 9, 2009 were approved, motion by Letendre, second by Ouelette.  
(March and April meetings were cancelled)

#### **2.0 Old Business**

##### **2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation:**

- 2.1.1 Talcott Property - Talcottville Gorge. Ann reported that discussions have resumed between Don Quinn, attorney representing Talcotts, and Amy Paterson, Trust for Public Land.
- 2.1.2 Farmland Preservation – Strong Farm - Russ reported that Nancy would like to preserve the entire parcel surrounding the house and barn. No further information.
- 2.1.3 Petrin Property – George Arthur spoke with Kim Petrin, who was amenable to conversation with Attorney Malcolm Barlow. George will set up a meeting.
- 2.1.4 Tankerhoosen LLC parcel – No further information.
- 2.1.5 Additional Open Space Parcel Evaluation – Nothing new.

- 2.2 Open Space & Farmland Preservation Funding – Ann reported that state funding for farming during this session was positive; open space funding has not fared as well.

##### **2.3 Conservation Commission Activities**

- 2.3.1 Mature Tree Regulation – Tom reported that the P&Z will not be revising the regulations due to lack of funding, and therefore the CC will resubmit an application. The language will be inserted in two sections, (1) the site plan process, (2) included in vegetated buffers
- 2.3.2 Tankerhoosen Riparian Clearcutting in Talcottville – Tom reported that DEP is about to begin the process of reviewing the situation, which begins with sending an inspector to look at the site.
- 2.3.3 Variable-leaved Milfoil at Valley Falls – A public meeting will be held May 14<sup>th</sup> in the Town Council chambers to obtain public opinion on the use of the herbicide. George Knoecklein will give the same presentation he had given to the Conservation Commission. The hearing has been advertised in the Courant, and is expected to be in the JJ. It was suggested that it be put on the town website also.

##### **2.4 Update on 2009 Goals**

- 2.4.1 OSTF Membership –
  - 2.4.1.1 Resolution of OSTF status w/ Town, fill vacancies – Ann reported that she had not heard any news from Diane Wheelock. Ann will continue to pursue.
- 2.4.2 Public Education – Planning will continue and local access is of particular interest.
- 2.4.3 Support of Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) – Ann reported that Chip Bellows had made the CC presentation to the Town Council on January 18. After a Consultant has been selected for the POCD in May, there will be an opportunity for OSTF input to the plan.
- 2.4.4 Sponsorship – hikes, other – George provided details for upcoming hikes that were planned by other organizations. The OSTF can sponsor since some are on Vernon open space properties. The Trails Day June 6 hike on Valley Falls Park and the Belding WMA sponsored by Vernon Parks and Recreation.

The OSTF discussed the importance of taking actions on the goals. It was decided to assign a goal to each OSTF member, and a target date for each for completion.

### **3.0 New Business**

**3.1 Gunther Property** – Ann reported that the Tolland Agricultural Center, which abuts the property, is interested in purchase, but they have no funds. In the meantime, Barbara Kelly at TAC learned that a social non-profit dealing with autistic children is interested in purchasing the property to operate a farm for these children. At the present they are looking at the Gunther site and a site in Glastonbury.

**4.0 Adjournment - the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Letendre, Co-chairperson**

