

## Draft 2

# Town of Vernon Open Space Task Force



## Minutes of Monthly Meeting February 8, 2010

*Meeting Location: Vernon Police Station Community Room West Rd*

**Meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.**

**Present:** George Arthur, Ann Letendre, Russ Kunz, Tom Ouelette, Ginny Gingras, Ryan Goad; Ann Letendre presiding

### 1.0 Approval of Minutes

1.1 Minutes of December 14, 2009 were approved; motion by Ouelette, second by Kunz

**A motion was approved to move item 2.3.2 to the first item of discussion in consideration of the attendance of Ryan Goad representing the Conservation Commission. Motion by Ouelette, second by Kunz.**

### **2.3.2 POCD inputs –**

The need for the HRLP, OSTF and CC to coordinate and consolidate presentations for the P&Z February 11 POCD meeting was discussed. The need to condense and avoid repetition is necessary since each group is allowed only 5 minutes. Some repetition may be necessary, however, since all goals start with the CC, but then are acted upon by sub-groups. Necessary information/data can be delivered on CD's, Thumb Drives, Power Point, etc.. Ryan and Tom led the discussion regarding the CC inputs. Ann led the discussion regarding the HRLP and OSTF inputs. The use of appropriate GIS map/attributes was considered to be of prime importance. Although it was not known which GIS maps are under consideration, maps for Open Space Plan, Greenways, Re-designated Wetlands, and Existing Land Use were discussed. It was agreed the Greenways could best be shown as corridors (polygons) rather than lines and therefore should not be included on maps where they would hide other important features. The inclusion of the new GIS map for the HRLP would also be desirable if it can be 'fitted' to the POCD format. Preliminary sharing of information by email will be necessary since there is only a few days. Ann stated that the OSTF input will likely be limited to the three goals that are listed in the Proposed Open Space System document, Rev 3, October 12, 2005.

### 2.0 Old Business

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

##### **Talcott Property – Talcottville Gorge – Pursue May 2010 OS Grant??**

Amy Paterson had suggested this property be considered for this grant. Ann suggested the first step will be to review the price history with the owner.

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

Disappointment was expressed regarding the apparent failure of the option with Creative Living Community. Russ reported that OSTF had provided a letter of support of the Structural Matching Grant from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation. The money would be used toward replacing the roof on the cow barn. Russ agreed to invite Nancy Strong to the next meeting to discuss future plans.

**Petrin property – no change**

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## 2.0 Old Business

### **2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation: (cont)**

#### **Tankerhoosen LLC Parcel Update –**

Amy Paterson, Trust For Public Land, is discussing new options with Tom Mason. There have been talks with Connecticut Forest and Park Association, and other groups regarding partnerships for the Federal Forest Legacy Program. This project would be a long-term process.

**Gunther Property** – no change

**Additional Open Space Parcel Evaluation** - none

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

**2.2.1 Local Funding** – no change

**2.2.2 State Funding** – Governor Rell's announcement on January 29 concerning the availability of \$5 million for open space funds for local land preservation was welcome good news.

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

#### **2.3.1 Variable-leaved Milfoil in Valley Falls Pond –**

Tom reported that the Knoecklein study results were received. The report also contained information about all Tankerhoosen Ponds. In addition to Milfoil, Fanwort was reported at Walker's Reservoir East. The serious threat to downstream ponds was reported. Preferred remedies were presented, but no specific treatment or schedule was recommended. The application of 2,4-D in early June appears to be promising. Tom believes that preliminary public hearings should be considered. Discussions with Bruce Dinnie will be scheduled.

**2.3.2 See above**

**2.3.3 Other –**

The recent decision by the Army Corps of Engineering regarding the Talcottville Mill site was discussed. The owner will be required to restore the site and the riparian area.

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

**2.4.1 OSTF Membership –**

**2.4.1.1 Resolution of OSTF status w/ Town, fill vacancies** – no change

**2.4.2 Public Education – Town Council presentation, local access presentation, publication of booklet, articles for Horizon, RR** – no news at this time, concentration is on the POCD

**2.4.3 Support of Plan of Conservation & Development - Input for Feb. 11** See item above.

**2.4.4 Sponsorship – hikes, other?** No change at this time

## 3.0 New Business

none

## 4.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**George Arthur, Co-chairperson**