

Conservation Open Space Committee

Minutes of Meeting

June 10, 2014

The Conservation Open Space Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at Birdseye Municipal Complex, 468 Birdseye Street, Stratford, Ct.

Call to Order: 6:33 p.m.

Presiding: Chairman Karen Rodia

Committee Members in Attendance: Joseph DiMenno, Greg Dancho, Rich Heiden, Bill McCann

Others in Attendance: Conservation Administrator, Brian Carey

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DiMenno made a motion to approve the minutes of October 8, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dancho. The motion carried unanimously.

Goal Setting: Chairwoman Rodia noted they have to establish the role of this Committee.

Mr. Carey informed the Committee that the north field of Pirhala Farms will be turned into a soccer field. Mr. Dancho does not recall a past plan established for the north field. Committee members also discussed widening of the road coming out of Bunnell High School. Mr. DiMenno voiced concerns in regard to wetlands at that location. According to Mr. Carey, the law has been followed by submitting the application. There will be an Inland/Wetland meeting on June 18th. Committee members discussed implementing a viable plan for this area. Ms. Rodia would like to view the plan for the north field and the widening of the road. Mr. DiMenno recalled the feedback on the survey for this property was that agriculture use far surpassed sports usage. Needs to be a balance in the community. In addition to the June 18th meeting of Inland/Wetlands, there will be a Planning Commission meeting on June 17th and a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting the first week of July on this matter.

Mr. Carey introduced the draft letter to be sent to high priority properties. Also discussed fluctuation of the real estate market and the long process in obtaining state grants. CDBG funding is available for acquiring open space properties. Public Act 490 (farmland/agriculture) is a way to obtain tax abatements. Committee members discussed easements in order to motivate people. The Town usually acquires property through donations or buying land. Suggested getting input from Attorney Tim Bishop.

Other Business: No Report

Adjournment: Hearing no further business for discussion. A motion was made by Mr. DiMenno and seconded by Mr. Dancho to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Gail DeCilio

Secretary