

Open Space Preservation Committee
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Minutes
Mansfield Town Hall, Conference Room B
7:00p.m.

Members present: Jim Morrow (chair), Ken Feathers, Quentin Kessel, Michael Soares, Vicky Wetherell, and Jennifer Kaufman (staff).

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

Michael Soares was appointed secretary.

Minutes of the December 2015 meeting were approved.

Opportunity for public comment – No members of the public were present.

Old Business

- Enabling Legislation for a Local Conservation Fund (Project Green Space)-Next Steps – In January Town Council passed a motion to refer this policy initiative to town committees for their review and comments. OSPC members agreed that the policy may not be a “good fit” for Mansfield, but Mansfield’s endorsement of it would show support for other towns with limited resources for protecting open space. Kessel brought up the recent proposal by State Sen. Witkos (R-Canton) to establish a constitutional amendment to protect open space in Connecticut and implement strengthened restrictions on the sale of preserved land; the following discussion focused on how this amendment could also strengthen open space preservation at the municipal level.

New Business

- Town Council Update-Joint meeting with other committees – Members continued to discuss their interest in developing a presentation for the Town Council to detail the status, operation, and priorities of the town’s open space program. It was agreed that OPSC and other town committees (Ag., PAB, etc.) will cooperate to form a subcommittee on this effort. Morrow and Soares volunteered for the subcommittee.
- Ravine Road – Jennifer updated the committee on recent events regarding the partial road closure. All options for Ravine Road were discussed.
- Draft Zoning Regulation Updates – Drafts were reviewed by members and no comments were made at this time.

Executive Session

- The committee voted to go into Executive Session at 8:39 and to come out of Executive Session at 9:08. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Town Manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14.