

Open Space Preservation Committee
Parks Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 7:00 PM
Mansfield Town Hall Conference Room B

Minutes

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04

2. Roll Call

OSPC members: Jim Morrow (Chair), Vicky Wetherell, Ken Feathers, Michael Soares, Quentin Kessel

Parks Advisory Committee members: Sue Harrington, Tom Harrington

Town Staff Present: Jennifer Kaufman

3. Review of Minutes

The Minutes of February 20, 2018 were approved. (moved Soares, seconded Morrow)

4. Opportunity for Public comment

No members of the public were present

5. New Business

- *Connecticut Bird Atlas*

The group discussed how the upcoming Connecticut Bird atlas may provide potential to acquire data pertinent to the town and town preserved land parcels for use in supporting additional open space initiatives and developing management plans for existing preserved lands. It was unclear if the data would be sufficiently detailed to provide useful information about individual parcels.

- *Bicentennial Pond Management*

Town staff reminded the group that last year there was some public concern about the use of herbicides for aquatic vegetation management at Bicentennial Pond. To address this concern and increase public outreach the Town is working with Northeast Aquatic Research to develop a more comprehensive management approach for the pond. The group discussed the pond management proposal and made recommendations to town staff. It is anticipated that this proposal would lead to developing a more informed strategy for sustainably managing the pond.

6. Continuing business

- *Simpson Property*

Town staff reported that the next steps are to complete the survey, which will include boundary marking, and lose on the property.

The group discussed the public hearing and determined that it would be useful for future acquisitions to include in a discussion and recommendations, in addition to how a parcel meets the enumerated criteria for conservation land, a more specific evaluation of how the acquisition relates overall to the town plan and goals for conservation land.

The discussion evolved when it was called to the group's attention that at a recent school building project outreach meeting one presentation mentioned using town open space for a new school.

The group discussed this in relation to the terms in the Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and concluded that the use was technically correct, in referring to undeveloped land, but could be misleading because much open space in town ownership is protected from development.

The term "conservation land" is used in the POCD for parcels with development restrictions and the group agreed that further discussion about the best terminology to use in communication is needed.

- *Potential consolidation of Committees*

The group agreed that the practice of holding joint meetings of the Open Space Preservation Committee and the Parks Advisory Committee seemed to be working well and it would be appropriate to put on a future agenda the topic of potential formal consolidation of these committees and how such a committee would be best able to continue to meet all the needs of the town.

7. Executive session in accordance with CGS section 1200(6)(D)

- *Sale or purchase of Real Property*
- *Discussion of possible site selection*

Entered executive session 8:21 PM (moved Feathers seconded S. Harrington)

Exited executive session at 8:54

Voted with one abstention to ask town staff to draft a memo summarizing recommendations, to be communicated to the Town Manger in executive session (moved T. Harrington seconded Wetherell)

8. Communications

Communications were noted.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 (moved Kessel, seconded Feathers)

Respectively Submitted
Ken Feathers, Secretary