

Town of Colchester
Open Space Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 8th, 2009
Colchester Town Hall—6:00 PM
Regular Meeting

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2009 SEP 11 AM 11:58
Nancy A. Bray
NANCY A. BRAY

Members Present: Chairman Nick Norton, Vice Chair Adam Turner, Jay Gigliotti, Jay Cohen, Liz Gilman

Members Absent: Rob Misbachg, William Hochlozer

Others Present: Rosemary Coyle, BOS Liaison

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Norton called the meeting to order 6:04pm
2. **Citizens Comments:** None
3. **Approval of the August 11th, 2009 Meeting Minutes:** J. Cohen motion to approve the minutes of August 11th, 2009 seconded by L. Gilman. All members voted in favor.
Motion Carried
4. **Farm Ordinance:** A. Turner made a presentation on a proposed Right to Farm Ordinance that the Board of Selectman (BOS) had been presented at their regular meeting held on September 3rd, 2009. A. Turner had two (2) handouts, one was the proposed Right to Farm Ordinance and the other was a copy of the Connecticut General Statutes § 19A-341 which dealt with the Right to Farm. R. Coyle stated that the proposed ordinance was different than the proposed ordinance that the BOS had seen on 9.3.09. A. Turner confirmed this and stated that he had made changes to the proposed ordinance to address some of the concerns brought forward by the BOS and was guided by the state as to how to format the ordinance. R. Coyle stated that she would like to review her notes from the 9.3.09 BOS meeting to confirm that indeed these changes addressed the issues by the BOS meeting. L. Gilman, who was present at the 9.3.09 BOS meeting, gave her accounts to what had changed and how the BOS and the farmers that were present at the meeting felt about the ordinance. A. Turner went through the proposed ordinance stating the specific goals. Discussion followed.

J. Cohen stated that the town and the state already had regulations that gave farmers the right to farm. He questioned whether or not the ordinance was really necessary. Discussion followed.

R. Coyle noted that a paragraph had been removed from the proposed ordinance that the BOS viewed. A Turner stated that the courts seeing more interpretations of the Right to Farm Statue. There have been numerous court cases that have defined what the Right to Farm is. Chairman Norton stated that a motion should be made to the BOS to pursue the Right to Farm Ordinance. L. Gilman made a motion to recommend to the BOS that they further pursue the right to farm ordinance. Seconded by J. Gigliotti All members voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

5. Land Acquisitions

- a. **Settlers Path, 2-Lot Subdivision on Hebron Line:** J. Gigliotti gave a description of a subdivision property that was proposing open space. J. Gigliotti explained to the committee that the proposed open space was nowhere near any of the Town's greenways as mentioned in the Open Space Plan and that it would difficult to enforce/ enter the property. Fee in lieu of open space was discussed. J. Gigliotti stated that it would be better fit in this situation to acquire fee in lieu vs. open space. J. Gigliotti then explained how the fee in lieu functioned. J. Cohen motioned to recommend to the Planning and Zoning commission that they request fee in lieu of open space for the Koch subdivision. Seconded by L. Gilman. All members voted in favor. **Motion Carried**

6. Open Space Plan Review

- a. **Section 3:** Chairman Norton asked A. Turner if he had done the previously requested research from Section 2 of the Open Space Plan. A. Turner stated he had and gave out two handouts. A. Turner identified 5 key areas that may need to have further review. A. Turner explained how the Town's open space requirements function. Discussion followed to whether or not the town is doing enough or too little. Chairman Norton stated that he wanted more information about how long surrounding towns have had their open space requirements in place. A. Turner motion to table this item for more research, seconded by J. Gigliotti. All members voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

7. Any Other Business Deemed Necessary: None

8. **Adjournment:** A. Turner Motioned to Adjourn, Seconded by J. Gigliotti All members voted in favor. **Motion Carried.** Chairman Norton adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm

Respectively Submitted By:
Jay Gigliotti