

Land Acquisition Fund Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2011

Attendees:
Marge Josephson, Vice Chairman
Fran Frattini
Al Kenney
Jerry Seigel
Colette Shulman
Jessica Weiss, Clerk

Absent:
Kate McConaghy
Barbara Ackerman
Mickey Goldfine

Vice Chairman Marge Josephson called the meeting to order at 7:31PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Regular meeting of March 3, 2011, motion for approval made by Ms. Frattini and seconded by Mr. Kenney with all voting in favor.

Membership of Board

- Board welcomed Mr. Seigel who is replacing David Wieder as the LAFAB public member. Given results of the recent election, Board will also anticipate a replacement for Ms. McConaghy in January.

Conservation Tax Credit

- Vice Chairman Josephson advised that the credit continues to only apply for conservation easements at the Federal level; however, noted that there is some level of support for state level credit on donations of land.

Property Update – Great Hollow

- Vice Chairman Josephson reviewed an article from the Danbury News Times which noted that the Great Hollow Wilderness School may be discontinued by the Regional YMCA. The Y is considering selling the 950 acre property at the intersection of Route 37 and Haviland Hollow Road..
- Discussed whether that property can be developed. Vice Chairman Josephson advised that other than the small piece of land where buildings are already in existence, building is not permitted based on the stipulations of the bequest.
- Property will continue to be monitored and discussed by Board.

Board Elections

- Ms. Frattini clarified that elections for officers take place in March and the terms run for a full year. Given the resignation of Mr. Wieder from the Board, Vice Chairman Josephson has taken over chairing the meetings and will continue until the March 2012 elections.

Budget

- Discussed current SLAFAB budget. Ms. Frattini to research and provide confirmation to Board of the fund amount.
- Reviewed if any monies remain in the Open Space Bond Fund. Ms. Frattini confirmed it to be approximately \$200K; however, the usage of any of the funds would need to be approved by a Town vote.

Plan of Conservation and Development

- Reviewed most recent status of the POCD and that Mark Weber, on Planning & Zoning, has been charged with creating the Open Space section.

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- Vice Chairman Josephson noted to Mr. Seigel that the Board is to provide an overview which would go into the main section of the POCD and then include a more in-depth document to be placed into the appendix.
- Board will need to await information from Ms. Ackerman with regard to the current status of the POCD and any input needed from the Board.

Transfer Tax at Time of Sale

- Currently, Connecticut does not offer this option for adding monies to the Town's Land Acquisition Fund. In other states a certain percentage of the sale of each house is directed to a land acquisition account for that municipality.
- The state would need to approve such an option; however, it would be the decision of each town to determine the parameters.
- Mr. Kenney to research this further and determine a status both on this subject as well as the conservation credit and provide update to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Fran Frattini moved to adjourn the November 16, 2011 meeting of the Land Acquisition Fund Advisory Board seconded by Colette Shulman, all voting in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Prepared By,

Al Kenney, Secretary

Jessica Weiss, Clerk

These minutes are not considered official until they have been approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Land Acquisition Fund Advisory Board.