

**Columbia Open Space
Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024, 9:00 AM
Draft Minutes
Submitted by: Tom McGrath**

Topic: Open Space Committee

Time: Jan 18, 2024 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Attendees: Ann Dunnack, Paul Zator, Rob Hellstrom, Ron Wikholm, Paul Ramsey, Justin Riendeau

Approval of Minutes: 12-21-2023 Motion by Paul Ramsey, 2nd by Ron Wikholm approved, with one abstention.

Audience of Citizens Todd Shepard, Tom McGrath

Updates from Cally Guasti (tabled)

IMBA/State Plan

Acquisition Update

Old Business

PZC/Open Space Set-Asides – Justin Riendeau discussed the draft document followed by extensive discussion. The document is related to special permits for affordable housing/senior housing. It is separate from regular subdivision regulations. It is superseded by CT Health codes and Building code dictates. Ann suggested that PZC review the procedures and checklist for subdivision applications that identifies when proposals are referred to TOC Open Space and TOC CCAG for comment. Rob recommended that PZC should have a pre review by contractors, surveyors and engineers etc. prior to public review.

Route 66 property – Mark Walter is working with the Cell tower company for an agreement to use access road and parking area

Anita Faye Ramm Conservation Land - Nothing to report

Pine Street Parking - In the next few weeks Rob will be meeting with the abutting landowner Ken Raczewski to show him the potential path that a trail would take from the Town owned lot onto the Town owned Wells Woods road

Hop River Trail Alliance Nothing to report

12-Town Airline Trail Alliance - **Tom recently reached out to the organization asking for updates. The website <https://ctracd.org/airlinetrail/> has not been updated with new information in a while and still lists Mark Walter and Paula Stahl as contacts instead of Tom McGrath**

Hop River Preserve - **Ann recommended that the Town move forward in purchasing the approximate 1 acre lot that abuts the Town owned property and the Hop River.**

Salmon River Watershed Partnership - **nothing to report**

FOMPSP activities - **Tom mentioned that the organization was meeting immediately after this open space meeting. FOMPSP is looking forward to updates from TPL and IMBA. The TOC Open Space committee submitted the list of names and organizations for stakeholders to TPL. TPL needs to schedule a kick off meeting with this group of stakeholders and IMBA ASAP. Tom recently reached out to the Friends of CT State Parks organization asking how FOMPSP can become more involved with the parent organization.**

New Business

Educate/Inform: Strategies for Conserving Your Land – **Paul Ramsey and Chris Tolsdorf are working on a document that would help people in Columbia to discover the many ways that they can conserve their land**

CLCC Conference March 23, 2024 Wesleyan University, Middletown,CT – **Ann recommended the conference for content and an opportunity to connect with other organizations such as TPL, Land Trusts etc.**

Executive Session – **none**

Adjournment **10:02**