

**Open Space Preservation Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2016**  
**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Mansfield Town Hall, Conference Room B**  
**7:00p.m.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Michael Soares was appointed secretary.

Minutes of the February 2016 joint meeting with Conservation Commission were approved.

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

### **Old Business**

- Town Council Update – Jennifer shared that she has spoken with Amy Paterson, Ex. Director of CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC). Amy will attend the April meeting to assist OSPC's discussion of how to permanently preserve Town-owned parks and open space lands. Parks Advisory Committee and Agricultural Committee will be informed of Amy's visit and invited to the meeting.
- Model Easement – Jennifer provided a few distinct conservation easements. These were reviewed, and it was decided that members should read through these examples and provide comments to Jennifer before the April meeting.
- Biking in Certain Town Parks – The Town received a letter from CFPA, regarding a request by some residents to allow biking on Town trails, which includes the blue-blazed Nipmuck Trail managed by CFPA. The letter explains that CFPA's Trail Committee reviewed the request and decided to maintain their existing policy and allow foot travel only. It also expressed that, if the Town does decide to allow biking in its parks, that we work closely with CFPA staff to find the best ways to protect trails and manage possible landowner issues.
- Meeting with Amy Paterson – see Town Council Update above.

### **New Business**

- PZC referral Meadowbrook Gardens Multi-Family Development – OSPC reviewed the provided plans and recommends that:
  - the proposed sidewalk along Meadowbrook Lane remain on that side along its entirety and does not cross the road. This sidewalk was omitted from the Landscape-Lighting-Sighting Plan.

- the proposed sidewalk along Meadowbrook Lane be extended to access the nearest bus stop at the ECSU ballfields.
- the sidewalks within the development are connected to one another, and that this network is extended to connect to the proposed sidewalk along Meadowbrook Lane.
- a guardrail and plantings are added to the south side of the southernmost parking area. Since this parking is very close to the slope leading to the stream, OSPC feels that some improvements are necessary for this location's safety, aesthetics, and management of runoff (plantings for filtration).
- the applicant provide more information on plans for the northernmost portion of the site, located along Meadowbrook Lane and east of the main entrance.
- PZC review the current parking plan and ensure it meet best practices.
- PZC requests a community benefits assessment for Sunny Acres Park.

### **Communications**

- CFPA letter, RE: Nipmuck Trail. Dated 3/14/2016
- Updates from Jennifer:
  - Bicentennial Pond:
    - The Town was awarded a grant of \$253,000 for construction of an all-access trail around the pond. Total project cost is \$316,000.
    - An application has been submitted to Inland Wetlands for sediment removal and management via herbicide of water chestnut, and aquatic invasive species.
  - Eagleville Lake – Continued management via herbicide of the aquatic invasive fanwort will occur this year. Similar to last year, the cost of \$28,000 is shared with the Town of Coventry. The Town of Mansfield received a grant this time of \$6,500, leaving the Town with \$8,500. Kessel asked if this cost was in the proposed Town budget, recalling that open space funds were used for the fanwort control last year and that OSPC urged that any management following the 2015 season be funded through the Town budget. Jennifer said that the item did not appear in the proposed budget and she would inquire about it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.