

Minutes of Regular Monthly Board Meeting 11/10/11

Start: 11/10/11 07:00 pm - End: 11/10/11 09:00 pm

Organizer: Cathy Shea

Location: Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester, CT

Topics

1 Attendees: Andy George, Chuck Toal, Pete Dane, David Morrison, Danny Albert, Cathy Shea, Leslie Curtis, Lisa Hageman, Penni Rochette, Arthur Liverant, Ted Hageman

2 Call to order

N Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

3 Approval of minutes - October 13, 2011

D Motion: Approve the minutes of the October 13th meeting. Motion: Chuck Toal Second: Cathy Shea. In Favor: All Opposed: None.

4 Main Street Property

N Arthur Liverant presented a proposal for the old Jack's Chevrolet property on Main Street, Colchester. The parcel has remained unoccupied for quite some time, is somewhat of an eyesore, and lies in town's historic district near the town green. Arthur would like to see the town purchase the property and is seeking the support of town organizations such as the Land Trust and Historical Society. Potential uses include a senior center, youth center, community center, farmer's market, mixed use, and Arthur would like the town to better control the aesthetics in the center of town. Chris Bourque suggested there may be grants available for affordable housing/mixed use projects. David Morrison suggested pushing for use clauses in the zoning regulations for the historic district in an effort to restrict what can go there.

5 Sub-committee reports

Financial

N Penni Rochette presented the third quarter financials, noting that expenses are up over last year at this time. This is due to the stewardship work being performed by ConnWood Foresters, which will eventually be reimbursed by the NRCS.

Landowner Contact

N Lisa Hageman presented the annual landowner letter to the Board. All are asked to pass on any comments to Lisa. Fritz Gahagon will be available in January for an evening of one-on-one with landowners.

Fundraising

N Pete Dane noted the letter for the annual membership drive is ready and that the CLT should plan an evening sometime after Thanksgiving to get together for envelope stuffing, note writing, etc. Pete suggested that in addition to our existing members, the CLT should reach out to people who have participated in CLT events such as hikes, art auction, or road race, as well as citizens living near CLT-preserved land.

6 NRCS Grant update

N Andy George gave a status of the stewardship work being performed by ConnWood Foresters. The forester has created land management plans for the Usher Swamp and Bulkeley Hill properties which Andy George, Lisa Hageman, and Helene Hochholzer have reviewed. The CLT still needs to give some consideration to the suggested tree stand improvement at the Gateway property. Andy has submitted the invoices from ConnWood to the NCRS for reimbursement but anticipates a lengthy process.

7 Standards and Practices

N Chuck Toal was asked to provide the Board with a status of where we are with respect to the Standards and Practices at the December meeting.

11A - Easement Stewardship Funding

D Motion: To replace the existing 11A Easement Stewardship Funding document with a more recent one modeled after Henri Jordan's suggested version. Motion: Leslie Curtis Second: Lisa Hageman In Favor: All Opposed: None

4A - Conflict of Interest

D Motion: To approve the 4A Addendum and replace the existing 4A Conflict of Interest policy with a more recent one (as amended) modeled after Henri Jordan's suggested version. Motion: Lisa Hageman Second: Leslie Curtis In Favor: All Opposed: None.

N Policy to be amended to require (not ask) board members and to include committee members, who may not also be board members, to complete and sign the conflict of interest form.

11I - Conservation Easement Amendment Policy

N Not yet ready for submission. Tabled for December meeting.

8 CLT Scholarship

D Motion: To fund a \$1000 scholarship for a graduating senior pursuing a degree in Conservation or Environmental Science. Motion: Lisa Hageman Second: Cathy Shea In Favor: All Opposed: None.

N David Morrison, Pete Dane, Cathy Shea to comprise committee to create guidelines.

T David, Pete, Cathy to meet and craft guidelines for scholarship prior to end of year.

Owned by **Cathy Shea** due **31 December**

9 Phone Book 2012

N Leslie Curtis gave a status of the 2012 Phonebook sales. There are commitments of \$12,200 and Barry Ford is able to produce the book for \$11,500, leaving only \$500 in profit for the book. Leslie cited the continued tough economy and popularity of the Internet for obtaining phone numbers. It was suggested that CLT take a hard look at whether a phone book should be produced next year.

10 Brainard Road Property

N Andy George has been in touch with the realtor and gave a status. Jackie Roy of Norwich Public Utilities has stated they will not pursue the purchase unless/until there is a DEP grant round. A suggestion was made for CLT to place a deposit on the property but Lisa Hageman stated that the CLT cannot negotiate a purchase price for another party. It was suggested to obtain an

appraisal and possibly an A1 survey.

11 Soils of Local Importance

N Chris Bourque has sent a letter to the NRCS and NRCS in Norwich needs to initiate a survey. Adam Turner has also been in contact with them. Chris will call Kip Kolesinskas of the NRCS for a status. Chuck Toal will speak with Chris regarding the locally important soils project in order to write an article for the local papers. Identifying local soils of importance in Colchester opens the door for federal funding and allows the town to apply for grant dollars for purchasing the development rights to agricultural land.

12 Old Business

N Leslie Curtis has completed the Neighborhood Assistance Act form on behalf of the CLT and given it to Greg Schuster for approval and submission to the State. This will allow CLT to participate in the NAA beginning July of 2012, which would allow local businesses who donate to the CLT to receive additional tax credits from the State.

13 New Business

N Chuck Toal will be conducting a hike and water bug study for a group of Daisies in support of their 'Clover' project.

14 Adjournment

D Motion: To adjourn the October regular meeting of the Board of the Colchester Land Trust. Motion: Leslie Curtis Second: Chuck Toal In Favor: All Opposed: None.

N Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

New Tasks

Task	Owner	Due
<input type="checkbox"/> David, Pete, Cathy to meet and craft guidelines for scholarship prior to end of year.	Cathy Shea	12/31/11