

Woodstock Open Space Land Acquisition and Farmland Preservation Committee

March 08, 2018 Minutes

Present: Dawn Adiletta, Jeff Stefnik, T. Moynihan, C. Paquette, C. Adams, S. Blodgett, G Lessig

1. **Call to Order:** Dawn Adiletta called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. **February minutes:** February minutes will be reviewed at the April meeting.
3. **Correspondence:** There was no correspondence.
4. **Public Comment:** No members of the public were present.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Executive Session
 - i. At 7:05, C. Paquette moved to go into executive session, T. Moynihan seconded.
 - ii. At 7:25, J. Stefanik moved to comes out of executive session, S. Blodgett seconded.
 - b. Public Recognition plaque - no report at this time.
 - c. Review of sales of town owned lands - no report at this time.
6. **New Business**
 - a. Valleyside Farm project: The Young family's application to have Valleyside Farm included in the state's Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) has been approved by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Our committee now needs to formally notify appropriate commissions and boards before the town votes to release its share of the funds. The Board of Selectmen on 03-15-18, Conservation Commission 03-26-18, Planning and Zoning, Board of Finance 03-20-18, and the Agriculture Commission. Process returns to Board of Selectmen who will schedule a town meeting to present to all Woodstock citizens. Because the town will be asked to spend \$140,000, the meeting is required to adjourn to referendum. Committee members were reminded that the Open-Space Fund has enough money set aside for this project and that the acquisition of land or conservation easements is the only thing the fund can be spent on.
 - b. Discussed timing of referendum, C Paquette will discuss with Board of Selectmen the best timing and cost of referendums.
 - c. D. Adiletta presented a draft version of talking points for members to use when communicating to friends and the general public. Our committee

members can advocate until the referendum is “warned” by the Town Clerk, after that date advocacy should come from disinterested parties.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Board of Selectmen - C. Paquette commented that the requested OS budget was reduced to \$5000 Operating funds, and \$15000 Acquisition funds. Committee requested that C Paquette ask the BoS if the numbers could be modified to \$2000 Operating and \$18000 Acquisition.
- b. Board of Finance - G Lessig reported that the BoF was appreciative of D Adiletta’s presentation on 03-06-18. Still no final state budget for 17-18. Outlook for 18-19 is that town budget will be very tight.

8. Adjourn: S Blodgett moved, C Paquette seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted, G Lessig substitute secretary.

Minutes are not final until approved.