TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2021
(Not yet approved by the Committee)

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

2. **ATTENDANCE**: Will Brady, Chairman (HDC) (arrived at 7:36 pm), Rob Smith (Board of Selectman), Mary Augustiny (IWWC), Harvey Thomas (Board of Finance), Mary Colpoys (East Haddam Land Trust), Susan Kinsman (Planning and Zoning Commission), and Marilyn Gleeson (Conservation Commission).

   ABSENT: Tracy Ginder-Delventhal (Board of Education), Joe Albuquerque (Economic Development Commission), Laurie Alt (Parks & Recreation), and Vacancy (Ag Commission).

   OTHERS: James Ventres, Land Use Administrator

3. **MINUTES:**

   Ms. Augustiny made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 25, 2021 regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Colpoys and passed by unanimous vote with Mr. Thomas abstaining.

   Ms. Gleeson made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 22, 2021 regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Colpoys and passed by unanimous vote with Ms. Augustiny and Mr. Thomas abstaining.

4. **BILLS:** None

5. **DISCUSSION:**

   Mr. Ventres asked the commission members to review the Open Space Committee report for the Hayward parcel on O'Connell Road Extension. The report covers the description on the property, how it conforms to the open space ordinance, and the East Haddam Plan of Conservation and Development. It also outlines past acquisitions and what was spent on the bond authorization already.

   Mr. Ventres said that the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has awarded the town $96,900.00 or 30% towards the purchase of the property. Mr. Smith and Ms. Augustiny noted that the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Watershed Committee has awarded another $10,000.00 towards the purchase. The total cost of the project is $328,000.00.

After the funds awarded, the town's share would be $221,100.00. It was noted that there may be time to request additional funds prior to a final town vote.

Mr. Smith stated that the most likely time for a town vote would be in July.

Mr. Ventres said that he would take any recommendations or corrections to the work sheet and draft a tentative schedule for presenting to boards and commissions. Once the presentations are complete it could be posted to the town's website.

Mr. Thomas noted that it may be beneficial to discuss future options with the property owner who owns land from the East Shore Drive o the Colchester town line. The land is at the head waters of the Eightmile River and provides watershed protection to Lake Hayward.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

2. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Augustiny made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Colpoys and carried by unanimous vote.