TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2021
(Not yet approved by the Committee)

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE: Rob Smith (Board of Selectman), Mary Augustiny (IWWC), Tracey Ginder-Delventhal (Board of Education), Mary Colpoys (East Haddam Land Trust), Marilyn Gleeson (Conservation Commission).

ABSENT: Joe Albuquerque (Economic Development Commission), Laurie Alt (Parks & Recreation), Susan Kinsman (Planning & Zoning), Harvey Thomas (Board of Finance), Will Brady (Chairman).

OTHERS: James Ventres, Land Use Administrator

3. **MINUTES:** ***Ms. Augustiny made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 27, 2021, regular meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mary Colpoys and passed by unanimous vote with Tracy Ginder-Delventhal and Marilyn Gleeson abstaining.***

4. BILLS: None

5. DISCUSSION:

Jim Ventres noted that the O'Connell Road property should have a closing by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. He also stated that the town vote was just shy of 75% in favor of Open Space. It was noted that the Articles from the Conservation Commission and support from the East Haddam Land Trust also helped.

Jim Ventres stated that the bond authorization has been reduced to approximately $521,000.00. On smaller projects that may be enough but, with the state only contributing 33% the last time, it may be time to increase the bond authorization amount.

It was agreed that the committee should approve the new administration and Board of Finance next year, to seek an increase.

Selectman Smith stated it is only a bond authorization and that the money is not set aside in an account. Each property still requires town approval. He said that in the long-term, Open Space only accounts for 1 to 2 percent of the town's funding. He also noted the town of Lyme recently voted 200 to 10, to add a million dollars to their account for Open Space.

6. **2022 YEARLY MEETING SCHEDULE:** ***Mary Augustiny made a motion to approve as amended, the 2022 yearly meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Mary Colpoys and passed by unanimous vote.***

7. **EXCUTIVE SESSION:** ***A motion was made by Mary Augustiny to go into executive session inviting the Land Use Administrator, the motion was seconded by Marilyn Gleeson and passed by unanimous vote.***

A motion was made by Mary Augustiny to go out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Tracy Ginder and passed by unanimous vote. No notes taken; no decisions made.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Susan Magri