



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Land Preservation & Open Space Acquisition Commission

MINUTES

Land Preservation & Open Space Acquisition Commission Meeting
Wednesday, November 2, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
In Person- Upstairs, Sherpardson, Upstairs Dining Room

Present: Malcolm Todt
Paul Bialobreski
Jim Lawlor
George Gabrielson
Anne Paolino

**Also
Present:**

Public: none

Absent: Ray Pietrorazio
Ericka Carrington

1. Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Gabrielson with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of October 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bialobreski **MOTIONED** to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2022 meeting;
SECONDED by Mrs. Paolino. Unanimous approval.

3. Old Business

The Commission briefly discussed the success of the Tour Day at Fenn's Farm. The Commission discussed that multiple tours were successful and involvement from Friends of Fenn's Farm was great too.

Mr. Gabrielson stated that the children's games and food were very good and everyone enjoyed them.

The Commission discussed potentially doing more advertising and in more advance of the next event.

Mr. Gabrielson stated that cupola project was completed at Fenn's Farm and the metal roof is also completed. Mr. Gabrielson stated that Rob Fenn thanked him for the donation of the weathervane. Rob Fenn told Mr. Gabrielson it was nice to see a weathervane on the cupola for the first time in 36 years.

Mr. Gabrielson stated Mr. Pietrorazio and Rob Fenn were very pleased with the contractor, MF Rosa Contracting, whom completed the cupola restoration project. It was said they both would like to explore using them for the barn restoration projects

since MF Rosa Contracting has experience with those projects as well. The commission will start working on getting a project priority list together and continue to discuss funding for these future projects.

A discussion ensued about the barns at Fenn's farm receiving historical restoration funding for their restoration. Mrs. Paolino stated her husband has contacted First Selectman St. John to discuss applying for these funds for these projects. Mrs. Paolino is going to spearhead getting the ball rolling and contact the Capital. Mrs. Paolino will get more information on the application process and if a grant writer would be necessary.

The commission tabled the discussion until further information is received about the programs.

4. New Business

Mr. Gabrielson discussed a hunter that hunts on Rob Fenn's field and up on the top of the mountain. Mr. Gabrielson said there are also hikers/people who are constantly on the property. Mr. Gabrielson discussed potentially adding more signage to the property to deter the high amount of foot traffic. Mr. Gabrielson discussed people blatantly disregarding of the private property and waving to the trail cameras. The commission discussed the public misconception of it being open to the public since its 'town owned' property.

The Commission discussed the pond being overrun by the cattails. Commissioners discussed that the land trust owns the right to the pond and questioned who they should contact for the removal of the cattails that are closing in on the pond at Fenn's farm. The future of the Farm's pond is dependent of removing the cattails before it fills itself in and they take over. Mr. Gabrielson discussed multiple options to stunt the growth of the cattails taking over. Mrs. Paolino stated Mr. Pietrorazio was supposed to follow up with the First Selectman's office after the last meeting. Mrs. Paolino stated the discussion should be tabled until they hear from Mr. Pietrorazio on the results of that discussion.

5. Public Comments:

None

6. Adjournment

Mr. Bialobreski **MOTIONED** to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:24 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Mr. Lawlor. Unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Burdick

Katie Burdick
Recording Clerk