

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
LAND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

July 14, 2016
(Revised 9-8-2016)

The meeting of the Farmington Land Acquisition Committee was held on July 14, 2016 at the Farmington Town Hall. Present were Committee Members Mastrobattista, Hinze, Kramer, Quigley, and Suffredini, and Land Acquisition Consultant Dolphin.

Call Meeting To Order:

Committee Chair Mastrobattista called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Upon MOTION made and seconded (Quigley/Kramer) it was VOTED Unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting as written.

Correspondence: None

New Business:

Ms. Dolphin reported that the Town had closed on the Aiudi property on July 11th. Chairman Mastrobattista thanked everyone for their help in putting this together.

Old Business:

Acquisition Update:

In response to the Town's acquisition of the Aiudi property, Committee members discussed the Farmington Land Trust's proposal for the Town to grant a Conservation Easement over the property to the Land Trust. Ms. Dolphin summarized the proposal presented to the Town on April 5, 2016. She noted that the proposal would provide both another layer of protection on the property as well as incorporate the property into the Land Trust's existing stewardship program. As indicated in the proposal, she added that a similar arrangement exists at Will Warren's Den and the Mason-McCook open space on Diamond Glen Rd, where the Town owns the property and the Land Trust holds a conservation easement over the property. Committee Members noted the value of the Land Trust's existing stewardship program with existing trained volunteers to monitor the activity on the property. Committee Member Kramer added that a violation on the Mason-McCook property was identified as a result of the Land Trust's monitoring, enabling the Town to contact the property owner and resolve the violation in a timely manner.

Ms. Dolphin added that the Aiudi proposal differs from the other two examples in that the easement to the Land Trust, in both prior cases, was a requirement of the sale of the property to the Town. She added that she had talked with the Town Manager and she had suggested that the proposal incorporate more site specific actions and timeframes on the part of the Land Trust prior to presenting to the Council. Members agreed this was a good suggestion, and further suggested that the Land Trust representatives and Ms. Dolphin meet to revise the proposal for submission at the September meeting.

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Old Business (cont.):

Open Space Zone:

Ms. Dolphin reported that she spoke with Town Planner Bill Warner about a simplified open space zone for existing open space. He was in favor of such a zone particularly from a planning perspective, as it more readily identifies undevelopable land on the Town's Zoning Map. Ms. Dolphin said she would work with the Town Planner to prepare an acceptable regulation, and would present it to the Committee at the September meeting.

Executive Session to discuss selection of site or purchase of real estate

Upon MOTION made and seconded (Quigley/Kramer) it was unanimously

VOTED: to go into Executive Session. The session was opened at 5:28 p.m. Attending were Committee Members Mastrobattista, Hinze, Kramer, Quigley and Suffredini, and Land Acquisition Consultant Dolphin.

Executive Session was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Following Discussion, it was agreed to cancel the August meeting scheduled for August 11th. The next meeting will be on September 8th.

A MOTION (Hinze/Quigley) to adjourn was adopted at 6:15 p.m.

ESD