

**Minutes of The Heritage Committee  
Town Hall – May 15, 2012 - 7 p.m.**

Members present: Jack Quinn, Arnie Magid, Chet Kuras, Roger Ives  
Absent: W. Hansen, M. Winne, W. Moncrief, R. Wilcox

Vice Chairman Jack Quinn called the meeting to order at 7: 05 p.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: Mr. Kuras moved to approve the minutes of the April 17 meeting; Mr. Magid seconded. The minutes were approved as amended by the change of “Municipal” subcommittee to “Town Center” subcommittee.

Open Space/Farmland Preservation subcommittee – The 2012 -13 budget does not contain any funding for the purchase of development rights/Farmland Preservation program. It was pointed out that the Town of Suffield is one of the leaders in the State, beginning our program of Farmland Preservation at least 8 years ago, and the Town has won awards for this effort. The Committee believes there is a need to publicize this program and let the residents know just how many acres have been preserved for farmland. The goal is to preserve the quality of life in rural Suffield and work to preserve farmland for the future. Mr. Hawkins, the Town Planner, is in the process of revising the Suffield Open Space Plan and Land Preservation Program. One of the changes in the wording is the addition of the word “minimum” so that it reads a minimum of 55% Open Space/residential land. It is important that the residents understand that the Town is not buying the property, but the development rights. This means a farmer can sell his property, but the land can be used only as a farm. Mr. Hawkins has one application in the approval process for this fiscal year. He will keep the Heritage Committee updated.

Town Center subcommittee - Mr. Kuras noted he had attended a meeting which Camoin Associates had presented a preliminary report of the market analysis for the Rehabilitation of Ffyler Place. This Feasibility Study is funded by a private grant and the Economic Development Commission. The preliminary report notes a need and a market for moderate/upper priced apartments. Mr. Kuras had the first summary report of the Study and the Commission discussed at length the results of the market analysis. It was noted that it has been suggested that the re-location of the Highway Garage would make the area more marketable. Also noted was the RFP sent out by the Town for the Bridge Street School.

Zoning and Planning Commission update – Mr. Kuras reported that Crystal Woods subdivision will be on the next Z & P Agenda. This applicant will be seeking text amendments which would be needed in order for approval of their application.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary HC.MINUTES.May.15.2012