

Minutes of a Special Town Meeting July 14, 2009

A special town meeting of the electors and inhabitants qualified to vote in Town Meeting was held on Tuesday July 14, 2009 7:00 PM at the Suffield High School Auditorium, 1060 Sheldon Street, Suffield, CT. Approximately 25 people attended. Bobbie Kling was elected as moderator and Elaine O'Brien served as clerk. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk read the Call of the Meeting. (See attached)

Item 1.

The following resolution was read by Jack Quinn and seconded by Ed McAnaney;

Resolved: That the Town Meeting of the Town of Suffield authorize the expenditure of \$600,000 from Open Space Funds for the purpose of purchasing Conservation Easements, known as Development Rights, from River Bend Associates Inc. for two properties; Farm 1, located on Phelps Road consisting of 76 +/- acres and Farm 2, located on Quarry Road consisting of 88 +/- acres,

Further Resolved: that the town meeting accepts the donation of approximately one acre of land located on Phelps Road to be used as a parking area for the Farmington Valley Greenway bike trail;

Further Resolved: that the First Selectman is authorized to sign and execute all documents necessary to complete the above transactions

First Selectman Scott Lingenfelter made a presentation on the Development right purchases. The total price for Conservation Easement is \$2,000,000. Of that the town will pay \$600,000 from the Open Space funds and the State of Connecticut will pay the remaining \$1,400,000. Scott's presentation illustrates the location of the property and highlights the process and reasoning behind this purchase. These parcels are adjacent to the Allen Farm (another preserved property) and the Farmington Valley Bike Trail.

As part of this transaction the town will be receiving approximately one acre of land on the south side of Phelps Road to use as a parking area for the bike trail.

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

The moderator asked for questions and comments. Terry Stearns of Mapleton Ave asked about future plans for the Open Space fund. Scott responded that he would like to rebuild that fund and had requested \$500,000 for the current fiscal year. Due to budget restraints that amount was cut to \$150,000.

Lester Smith of Marbern Drive asked about paving the parking area. Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director explained that there were no paving restrictions on the acre parcel.

Hearing no further comments or questions, the moderator called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2.

The following motion was made by Dennis Kreps and seconded by Brian Fitzgerald.

Resolved: That the town meeting of the Town of Suffield accepts as a public road, Marketing Drive, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and approved by the Zoning and Planning Commission.

Gerry Turbet, town engineer presented information on the road. This road was constructed by the town to provide access to the industrial park on the east side of route 75 also known as South Street. This road is 38 feet wide for the first 225 feet and then 26 wide for the remainder. Funding for the road from LOCIP funds (local capital improvement program) was approved at a town meeting in August 2007.

There were no questions on comments. The moderator called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3.

The following motion was made by Dennis Kreps and seconded by Jack Quinn;

Resolved: That the town meeting of the Town of Suffield accepts as a public road, Whitfield Way, of the Whitfield Way Subdivision, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and approved by the Zoning and Planning Commission.

Gerry Turbet explained that this is a 24 ft wide, .12 mile cul-de-sac road off of Prospect St.

Dennis Kreps of Newgate Road questioned why all roads were not a standard width. Gerry responded that roads are built to the standards set by the Zoning and Planning Commission.

With no further comments or questions, the moderator called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 16th day of July, 2009,

Elaine C. O'Brien
Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF SUFFIELD

Notice is hereby given that a Special Town Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Suffield, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting, will be held in the auditorium at the Suffield High School, 1060 Sheldon Street, on Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., for the following purpose to wit:

1. To discuss and vote upon a resolution for the acquisition of development rights to the River Bend property by the Farmington Valley Greenway for the purchase of two farms representing a total of 165 +/- acres located on Phelps and Quarry Roads with the cost to the Town of \$600,000.
2. To see what action the Town will take with respect to accepting Marketing Drive as a town road.
3. To see what action the Town will take with respect to accepting Whitfield Way as a town road.

Dated at Suffield, CT this 8th day of July, 2009

BOARD OF SELECTMEN-TOWN OF SUFFIELD

Scott Lingenfelter, First Selectman
Timothy Reynolds, Selectman
Victoria Spellman, Selectman
John Smith, Selectman
Brian Fitzgerald, Selectman