

MINUTES - TOWN OF SOUTHEAST OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: July 24, 2007

Place: Town Hall

Time: 7:30PM

Attendance: Councilmen Richard Honeck, Town Assessor, Bill Ford and Advisory Committee members: Milly Nugent, Cherie Ingraham, Kerry Cunningham, Ann Fanizzi, and Jim DiBella.

- 1. Discussion began with the approved evaluation grid being distributed and the UJA property being formally evaluated by each member the evaluation forms were collected and will be given to the Town for record.**
- 2. The balance in the SECOS account at this time is \$1824.24. A motion was made to reduce this balance to 00.00 by contributing the monies to the Landmarks Preservation Society, The Putnam County Land Trust and to the Friends of the Great Swamp. These monies would be distributed evenly to the three recipients in the amount of \$608.08. The motion was passed unanimously.**
- 3. Councilmen Richard Honeck reported that the Town of Southeast has a line item in the budget for \$10,000.00. This line is to be utilized for Open Space Committee related objectives. A suggestion was made that an town wide evaluation could be made to identify types of vegetation, animal habitats etc. This information would be beneficial in the evaluation of future parcels of land for possible purchase. It was determined that with the limited funds available only certain parcels could be evaluated and that a town wide study would far exceed the budget line item. Ann Fanizzi volunteered to request the assistance of Mr. Jim Nordgren. Jim's expertise regarding open space would be beneficial not only with the process of getting parcels evaluated but also with the procurement of possible grant money to supplement the funds we have available.**

A recommendation was made that we write letters to our State Senator and Assemblymen inquiring if grant monies were available to supplement our efforts to preserve open space.
- 4. Discussion of the CPA and associated transfer tax levy began with Councilmen Honeck giving his input on where the Town Board stands with regard to this. He reported that the majority of the board feels that any additional tax based on home sales of could be restrictive to the re-sale market and that any additional tax is not a popular topic with the taxpayers. It was decided that this discussion should be tabled until the Governor signed this law.**
- 5. The August meeting is cancelled due to conflicts in schedule. Our next meeting is scheduled for 9/26/07.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00

Respectfully submitted by Jim DiBella Secretary