



**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
LAND ACQUISITION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 20, 2021**

**Present:** Michael Widmer, Adam Goodman, Tara Hawley, Jeff Galdenzi, Kasandra Marshall, Kevin Helmich, Trey Bickers, Nick Mirabile

**Absent:** Linda Batchelder

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04pm via voice-only conference call.

**II. Appointment of Alternates if Necessary**

Marshall was appointed as an alternate and is voting in place of Batchelder who is absent.

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Goodman motioned and Marshall seconded to approve the October 21, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**V. Chairman's Report**

Discussion on the role of the LAC - although we serve solely in an advisory role to both the First Selectwoman and the Conservation Commission, our role and use has been inconsistent. Brian Carey had been a key advocate and source of direction. With his recent absence, it was suggested we meet and communicate directly with First Selectwoman Kupchick to raise our profile and keep the LAC's role relevant. It was also suggested we begin to create a target list of properties and develop a protocol for how to advocate for the properties, including who to communicate with. Widmer suggested exploring the town GIS and will forward GIS open space spreadsheet he created in 2018.

**VI. 2021 LAC Officer Elections**

Widmer reached out to the current officers who are willing to serve another year. Helmich suggested we keep our current officers in order to stay consistent with everything going on with the pandemic.

Motion: Helmich motioned to nominate the existing slate, Hawley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>a. Chair</b>      | Mike Widmer   |
| <b>b. Vice-Chair</b> | Jeff Galdenzi |
| <b>c. Secretary</b>  | Adam Goodman  |

## **VII. New Business**

### **150 Villa Avenue**

This 3.8-acre property is vacant, consists of mostly wetlands, and is within the flood plain. The town is interested in potentially purchasing it to mitigate the flooding along the Rooster River. The current owners live in an adjacent house on Algonquin Road. Scott Leamon from the Fairfield Engineering Department is having the property appraised.

Motion: Widmer motioned to be in favor of the town acquiring this property given the flood mitigation benefits and open space preservation that is in alignment with Fairfield's strategic plan. This motion assumes the property is offered at a fair price based on the pending appraisal and has a clean environmental status. Helmich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **a. 3581 Black Rock Turnpike**

A neighbor wants to purchase this small triangular orphan property. Previously, we passed a motion to bring this property to the town's attention to see if the administration is interested, but there is no update. Follow up with the Conservation Department is needed to determine status.

### **b. 3724 Post Road & 3726 Post Road**

Sasquanaug Southport, a charitable organization, wants the town to acquire these two properties for passive open space. Both properties were historically underwater in Bulkley Pond, but are now dry marshland since the earthen dam failed. There is no update for this property.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Widmer called the meeting at 6:43pm. Next meetings are April 21, July 21, and October 20, 2021.

Respectively submitted by,

Adam Goodman      Secretary, LAC