

**Town of Easton South Park Advisory Committee**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**August 17, 2020**  
**Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**Meeting ID: 573 146 5822**  
**Password: SPAC0817**  
**Total attendees: 12**

1903 Call to order by John Cunningham

Committee members present: John Cunningham, Ross Ogden, Tara Sanft, Lisa Keane, Jeff Becker, Elliot Leonard, Andy Kachele, Bob Schrage

Committee member not present: Dwight Senior

1. Review minutes from July 20, 2020 meeting, motion to approve minutes by B Schrage, second by A Kachele, motion to amend minutes to add nine letters of endorsement for ALT grant, added after minutes posted to town website, approval vote was unanimous.

2. Public comment: none

3. Old Business

A. Review and discuss July 20 meeting, no comments.

B. Committee reports on ongoing investigations

1. Solar farm, no updates by T Sanft and B Schrage

2. Ag application, no updates by J Becker

Note by J Cunningham that recent storm/power outages have impacted work that could be done on investigations.

3. Educational/Nature Center, update by L Keane, contact at SHU Biology Dept would look for cooperation with the town in the form of MOA to do their fieldwork. He believes that his department is not in a position to purchase/lease the land. Waiting to hear back from Fairfield University

4. Town cemetery recommendation from public outreach, reported by L Keane and T Sanft, spoke with contacts at Union Cemetery, Darrin Silhavy, and Aspetuck Cemetery, Dori Wollen. There are not many plots available in Easton; they believe there is a need. Reported that 12 acres is more than adequate, actually would not recommend developing the entire 12 acres, as there might not be demand. Four acres will allow 400-600 plots. Plots in the area sell for \$1,500-2,000. Upfront costs for starting a new cemetery is around 400-500K, for roads, mapping, clearing land, records. Dori Wollen suggests reaching out to religious groups or larger cemeteries for interest in purchasing. She thinks the property would be a nice site for a cemetery.

5. Preserve and protect, no update.

6. Residential development, no update by R Ogden, awaiting appraisal of land.

7. Commercial development, update by J Cunningham, interest by both SHU and Fairfield U, for graduate/faculty housing, awaiting further proposal development. Subcommittee chair, E Leonard, recommends driving by Fairfield University's new town houses on their campus, to see what it looks like.

8. No status update on grant application.

R Ogden had follow up conversation with Gina Blaze, she is obtaining her own appraisal of the land, she has interest in purchasing either entire property, or property minus ALT piece, if grant awarded. A Kachele states that from his conversation with Gina that she would grant the town a conservation easement of land along the river.

4. New Business, no new additional contacts

5. Public comment: June Logie, 140 Rock House Rd, asks for clarification on educational/nature center, L Keane responds that the project would be in cooperation with interested universities, land used for field use, possible nature house with educational opportunities. She recommends getting in touch with the Audubon Society.

6. Plan for next period, next meeting is Sept 21, 2020. Committee asked to think about structure of our proposal to the BOS. A Kachele recommends that we include financial implications for any proposed options.

1938 Motion to adjourn by J Becker, second by A Kachele, vote was unanimous.

ZOOM recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xd5wDJbC\\_0BJUJXp5m31dat6B9ngT6a82yFP\\_PtZn0n67UCRIhwk9IWPE1iXpKY-](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xd5wDJbC_0BJUJXp5m31dat6B9ngT6a82yFP_PtZn0n67UCRIhwk9IWPE1iXpKY-)

Password: 9\*TheYb?

Minutes submitted on August 20, by L Keane, SPAC Secretary