

Minutes of The Heritage Committee
April 19, 2016 – Town Hall
2nd Floor Conference Room
7 p.m.

Vice Chairman Jack Quinn called the meeting of April 19, 2016 to order.

Members present: Jack Quinn, Roger Ives, Ray Wilcox

He called for Citizen Comment: None

Review and discussion of the Part I of the past history and achievement of the Heritage Committee:

The Committee reviewed the past membership and it is noted that the Committee is lacking at least three members now. Janet Banks and Jack Quinn met with the Historic District, and the HD voted to send a member in support of the Village District concept. The EDC Director wrote a grant application to STEAP for \$500,000. (May 4, 2002) Funds from this grant were for the following use:

- Ff Tyler Place intersection traffic signal
- Sidewalk extension
- Shared parking study
- Streetscape

The Committee noted that this has all been accomplished.

A Library Space Needs Committee update: Mr. Winne and Town Planner Mr. Chester updated the HC of the current status and actions proposed. It is noted that many studies were conducted about the needs of the Library in the past but not acted upon. In 2016, this project, the renovation and ADA improvements, the Kent Memorial Library is almost ready complete.

The Town (Hill Top Farm) had a state grant of \$660,000 from the State. The Town sold part of the preserved land to recoup the town's investment the parcel with the Hill Top Barn, was offered with conditions, FOFA was formed and began improvements. One of big accomplishments was the Open Space Farmland program; a committee was formed of HC members, Town Planner, and process began. This was the acquisition of developmental rights of farm land; both the Town and the State paid an agreed appraised amount to an approved farmer; so that the land could only be sold for farm use.

With the receipt of the State open space grant and the proceeds of the subdivided parcel by the town, Suffield retained a significant part of its heritage at no cost to the Town.

The First Selectman took a yearly request to the Board of Finance to include funding in the Town budget. The requests for \$250,000 - \$300,000 were submitted to the annual budget process. The successful Open Space Farmland program has continued until this

day, and funding has been submitted in the 2016-2017 (\$250,000). The Town did not approve funding in only one of the past years.

Signs have always been of importance to the Committee and the Town; John Smith designed the Town Village District signs; and the HC has always strived for same design and same sign. The interest of the HC is sign design conformity. We now have the Design and Review Board to review signs that do not meet the sign regulations and can be applied for an application for a modification. This has worked well for the HC in the past.

This is a summary of major projects of the Committee through June 2006. A continuation will be submitted for discussion and review in the next meetings.

WPCA update: no report

The signage of the Town was discussed.

Unfinished Business: The Committee will study and ask what we can further do for the Town. The Library, and the Town Village District, and the Open Space Farm Preservation Project have been most successful.

The next meeting will be May 17, 2016

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary