



Town of Lebanon
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
POCD Open Space Subcommittee
Special Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Teleconference Meeting

Members Present: Jan Fitter, Keith LaPorte, Robin Chesmer, Thomas Meyer, Wayne Budney
Also Present: James Jahoda (PZC Chair), Marc Lang (ConsAg Chair), Kevin Cwikla (First Selectman), Philip Chester (Town Planner)

The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Open Space Subcommittee convened at the request of the Planning and Zoning Commission to review the recommendations in the Draft POCD relative to future open space funding. This came about at the Commission's 12/21/20 meeting where it chose to request \$50,000 in open space capital funding for FY 2022 based on the current balance in the account, past annual average open space expenditures, and current COVID economic impacts. The Commission also acknowledged receiving comments from the Board of Finance Chair at the 12/14/20 draft POCD public hearing where the Chair asked for explanation regarding the \$100,000 annual request for open space funding.

The Subcommittee reviewed past annual Board of Finance funding levels, average annual open space expenditures, open space projects in the works, amount of preserved and unpreserved farmland, and the priority forest preservation areas recommended to be added to the POCD. The need for appropriate open space funding levels for the 10-year planning period were discussed.

It was the consensus of the Subcommittee to recommend to the Planning and Zoning Commission that the draft POCD be amended to eliminate the \$100,000 annual request for open space funding and \$500,000 open space reserve fund and replace it with maintaining an open space reserve fund of \$300,000 annually with the caveat that the town's fund balance account be utilized to fund open space projects above \$300,000 that are supported by the community.

The Subcommittee adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip S. Chester, AICP
Town Planner
1/9/21