

Attleboros

Attleboro, North Attleboro

Locust targeted by trust Conservation panel to act by April 25

ATTLEBORO — Opponents of a 300-home construction project at Locust Valley golf course are among those backing the formation of a land trust in the city.

About 50 people gathered Wednesday at the Attleboro Public Library in the first meeting to discuss the organization of a land trust. The goal of the trust would be to purchase land to be kept as open space.

Charles Adler, solid waste committee chairman, a former mayoral candidate and one of the organizers of the trust, said the group is most interested in purchasing the land surrounding the golf course off South Main Street near Dodgeville.

‘I feel like there’s a lot of momentum going for this.’

— Charles Adler

Organizers also expressed an interest in purchasing the South Attleboro Golf Center driving range, which has been eyed by developers in the past, and a few other sites, Adler said.

Four committees were organized to work towards developing the trust. The members will meet again April 26.

“I feel like there’s a lot of momentum going for this,” Adler said.

Meanwhile, the conservation commission has until April 25 to decide whether to approve a plan to fill some wetland areas of the Locust Valley golf course as part of the project.

The commission has been considering the plan for several weeks but technically kept a public hearing on it open so additional information could be submitted and the decision deadline delayed.

The hearing was closed last Wednesday, leaving 21 days for the decision.

Fafard Companies of Ashland want to fill some wetlands for roadways and drainage systems and create a replacement wetlands for those that are filled.

The developer also wants to build 300 homes and expand the golf course from nine to 18 holes, but thus far has been unable to get planning board approval for the housing project.

Neighbors in the Locust Valley area, located off South Main Street near Dodgeville, have strongly opposed the development of the 325-acre site, saying it is one of the last large open space areas in Attleboro.

Two years ago the neighbors asked the city to purchase the golf course and run it as a municipal facility, but the city never pursued the idea.