

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission (OSPC) Regular Meeting**  
Monday, January 24, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford Town Hall

**Members Present:** Doug Roth (chair), Madeline McClave (joining by telephone), Bill Michaud (joining by telephone), Rusty Warner, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Eva Barham (alternate), Jean Darlington (secretary). Doug seated Eva as a regular member to fill our vacancy.

**Guest:** Town Clerk Lynn Florio visited at 6:30 to swear in Rusty and Jean for their new terms. She had already sworn Karen in earlier in the day. She left after completing that task.

Doug called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**Approval of minutes:** Jean moved to approve the minutes of the 11/22/2021 regular meeting. Eva seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Updates on Current Open Space Preserves and Trails:**

**Butler Riverfront:** Jean asked about the status of the management plan. Madeline said she will ask the New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) Board if they have any changes, and then she will contact all of us by email between now and the February 28<sup>th</sup> OSPC meeting.

**Jones Mountain:** Bill and Madeline reported on the 11/27/2021 Annual Fall Cleanup event, which was led by Bill Michaud and Bob Britton. Sixteen to eighteen volunteers attended. They cleaned out culverts, built an additional drainage runoff area, and identified areas of the carriage road that need additional work. We discussed the best ways to achieve that without disturbing the fragile soils and historical stonework of the carriage road.

**Goula Preserve, Phillips Farm:** No news to report.

**Summary of Open Space Preserves for Town Website:** We discussed the PowerPoint that Madeline had emailed to us. Madeline and Eva volunteered to work on shortening it and then to email us the result before our 2/28/2022 meeting. We also discussed the idea of posting excerpts from it on the town's Hiking Trail Map page (<https://www.newhartfordct.gov/recreation-department/pages/hikingwalking-trail-maps>).

**Work on Updating Open Space Plan:** We continued discussing updates. Members volunteered to email their sections to Jean within the next two weeks to incorporate into the working draft. Doug emailed members the latest version of the Plan.

**New Business:** Doug, Karen, and Jean reported that they had attended a Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) Zoom meeting on January 12, 2022. Its purpose was to coordinate different groups' efforts to target invasive species along the Wild and Scenic Farmington River. Other attendees included New Hartford Conservation Commission Chairperson Alison Murdock, DEEP wildlife biologist Pete Picone, and invasive plant expert Betsy Corrigan. Madeline reported that the NHLT is planning a session with Tom Zetterstrom, who will provide useful advice about Japanese Knotweed. Doug recommended that Madeline inform FRCC because they are planning to set up a section of their website as a database for everyone to keep apprised of each other's efforts. Madeline reported that the NHLT is working on plans to create a model riparian buffer at its Riverview Park. Karen reported on the town's meetings regarding federal Covid-19-related grant money. She said that First Selectman Dan Jerram had proposed creating a better access point for fire trucks to use river water to fill their

tanks, as was necessary during the New Hartford House fire on August 10, 2021. Doug volunteered to talk to Dan about incorporating riparian buffer concepts into such plans. We have the opportunity to create a model riverfront in the downtown business district.

**Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate:** At 8:03 p.m., Jean moved we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Rusty seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 8:12, Jean moved we leave executive session. Rusty seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:13, Karen moved we adjourn the meeting. Eva seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:13.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Darlington, Secretary