

Town of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2015

Members Present: Jean Cronauer, Jean Darlington, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Madeline McClave, Caren Ross, Seth (Rusty) Warner.

Chair Jean Cronauer called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Cronauer seated Alternate Member Karen Griswold-Nelson as a full member.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Cronauer moved, Karen Griswold-Nelson seconded, and all voted to approve the February 23, 2015, meeting minutes. Griswold-Nelson moved, Cronauer seconded and all voted unanimously to add approval of June 23, 2014, meeting minutes to the agenda. Griswold-Nelson moved, Cronauer seconded and all except Warner and Darlington (not on the OSPC on 6/23/14) voted to approve the June 23, 2014 minutes.

II. Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCAD)

Members discussed the POCAD draft. Cronauer moved, Griswold-Nelson seconded and all voted unanimously to have the Chair formally request that P&Z use OSPC's version of Chapters Three and Four for the POCAD rather than the draft from the Land Use Office. Cronauer will attend P&Z meeting this Wednesday evening.

III. Presentation on Proposed New Hartford Center Plan – Dan Jerram, First Selectman

First Selectman Jerram presented the 'Draft Master Plan – Downtown' with a new visual for the Town's new logo 'A Town for All Seasons'. He reviewed the 1995 Plan and key points that have been achieved from that vision. He talked about the challenges for businesses and the targeted investments that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) feel are important for the downtown area to make the village center a sustainable place for businesses. He has been working with LADA, P.C., consultants and land planner, on updating the old Master Plan. Jerram then reviewed the new design draft with walking loops around the downtown area with a new bridge envisioned that connects the two sides of the river at the New Hartford Land Trust's Riverview Park. He also talked about the plan for a pavilion near the River at bottom of Bridge Street, plans for parking, the corner lot where gas station used to be, gateway pillars, etc. He also talked about the Hurley building and property on the east side of the River. He said that prices and timelines are hypothetical at this point. He is going to every board and commission with this Plan and then to public meetings.

Cronauer said that including LID principles and pervious surfaces to protect the river from increases in storm water runoff is very important. She has books that show beautiful designs using these principles that she can share. She said LADA is not known for their LID expertise and that she could recommend other firms that could help with that. Cronauer also asked why there is a parking lot shown at Riverview Park. She said that this new, downtown Master Plan should be referenced in the POCAD but these detailed drawings should not be formally included. Members commented that new hardscape areas/parking should be pervious. They also asked why public input was not solicited early in the process of updating this Master Plan to gather ideas from townspeople before the revisions and when it would get widespread public input.

Madeline McClave said that the New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) had met with the First Selectman several weeks ago and that NHLT's Riverview Park cannot have any parking or paved areas by deed and the donor's wishes. She said that NHLT had asked for the parking lot for Riverview Park shown on this Plan be removed to prevent confusion on this point. Others asked why this parking is seen to be needed and said they felt it was not necessary and wrong

to show on protected open space. Jerram said that the parking lot would be removed from the Park on the Plans.

Griswold-Nelson suggested BOS look at extending the boundaries of downtown along Main Street. Other members shared feedback on specific design items.

Jerram asked OSPC members to take the Plan home to review and digest it. Send him an e-mail with ideas.

IV. New Hartford Land Trust Report

McClave said the NHLT had a successful Annual Meeting recently with Dr. Kim Stoner from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station speaking about Bees and has several programs planned for May. She said there is lots of work to complete at the NHLT's Alfred Sabolcik Property this spring to open it for hiking by mid-summer with the first work day on May 9th. She asked that fellow OSPC members spread the word about the NHLT's need for volunteers.

V. Stewardship Report

No discussion.

VI. Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate

No discussion.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting is April 27th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Madeline McClave, Secretary
New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission