

**Open Space Preservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**7:00 p.m., Monday, August 24, 2015**  
**Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford Town Hall**

Members present: Jean Cronauer (chairperson), Madeline McClave, Caren Ross, Bill Michaud, Jean Darlington (secretary), Rusty Warner. First Selectman Dan Jerram visited from 8:10 to 8:20.

Jean C. called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Madeline moved that we accept the minutes of the July 21, 2015 meeting. Bill Michaud seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: At 7:10 Jean C. moved that we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Caren seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 7:45 Caren moved that we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Rusty seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Jean D. moved that, to fulfill State requirements for a chief negotiator for the Town of New Hartford, we recommend Bill Michaud for that role in the current project discussed during Executive Session. Jean C. seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

III. 2015 Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), Implementation Plan: Jean C. reported that Steve Sadlowski had sent her the latest version. Verbs our commission recommended have been weakened, for example from “require” to “encourage” and “support.” Our overall consensus was that the weaker language is probably acceptable. Madeline recalled that Jamie Hall, chairperson of the Inland Wetlands Commission, had recommended (at the public hearing) against using the word “require” in the POCD. Jean D. said the wording would matter more in the Zoning Regulations more than in the POCD, which is a guiding document rather than a regulatory document.

The Implementation Plan still lists “staff” as the only entity to do certain tasks, or it is listed as a “partner” of boards and commissions. We generally agreed that “staff” is really not a “partner” of boards and commissions in the same way as those bodies are “partners” of one another. Rather, “staff” plays the vital role of carrying out the important support work needed by all the commissions, so it should not be listed as being responsible for making policy decisions that are the job of the boards and commissions. “Staff” should never be listed as the only entity in charge of making policy decisions in any area. Jean C. said that the date for approval of the POCD and Implementation Plan is drawing near. She will finish reading the latest version over the next few days and then send it to us.

Madeline talked about the downtown plan section of the POCD. She said the New Hartford Land Trust wants to work with the Town on a vegetated buffer along the river, partnering with the Conservation Commission and the Farmington River Coordinating Committee, to promote biodiversity and riparian buffers. It would be an educational tool that would showcase the latest river protection practices.

IV. Update of Open Space Plan: We divided up the work of updating the Open Space Plan. Jean D. will e-mail all OSPC members a master list of tasks to remind everyone what they volunteered to do.

V. Plans for New Hartford Day – Sunday, September 20 from 10 - 4: We usually put up a display at the Conservation Commission booth. Rusty, Bill and Madeline volunteered to make this year's display. Madeline will make a large copy of the Open Space map. Rusty will put together information about pollinators. Bill made a PowerPoint last year that can be incorporated into the display.

VI. New Hartford Land Trust Report: Madeline reported that the NHLT is looking for volunteers to help at the annual Frolic on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Other Business: Our next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

At 9:03 Jean D. moved we adjourn. Jean C. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Darlington, Secretary