

**OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
Minutes of Regular Meeting**

Monday, October 26, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall

Members Present: Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Karen Griswold-Nelson, Bill Michaud, Caren Ross, Madeline McClave, Jean Darlington (Secretary). Jean C. called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

- I. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Jean C. moved we approve the minutes of the 9/28/2015 meeting. Caren seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- II. Open Space Goals and Priorities for 2016: Christine Hayward very kindly printed copies of the 2015 POCD for each of us, and Jean C. e-mailed to members the POCD Implementation Plan, which contains charts showing OSPC as the leader or partner on a variety of initiatives. Members discussed and prioritized their goals for next year and for the longer term. Some of the priorities discussed included:
 - a. preserving land to complete planned links of trail networks and wildlife corridors
 - b. involving ourselves in task forces working on open-space-related projects such as trails
 - c. improving communication with the other commissions, the townspeople, and the schools; formalizing our relationship with the other land use commissions
 - d. completing policy initiatives involving land preservation tools
 - e. improving funding for open space preservation
 - f. implementing the new Plan of Conservation and Development
 - g. finishing our update of the Open Space Plan
 - h. participating with the Conservation Commission, NHLT and others in studying and discussing results of the ten-year update of the Natural Resource Inventory and associated layer maps for New Hartford to help inform land acquisition criteria.
- III. Open Space Budget: Our budget is \$3,000 per year, down from \$10,000 when this commission was created. The town has a \$4 million surplus. We discussed the idea of making a presentation to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen about advancing policy initiatives.
- IV. Update of Open Space Plan: Members are going to complete the portions of the plan they agreed to write.
- V. Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: At 8:37 p.m., Jean D. moved that we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Caren seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 8:50, Jean D. moved we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Caren seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- VI. NH Land Trust Report: Fran Zygmunt is scheduled to do a presentation about bird migration on Wednesday, December 2 at 7 p.m. at the Beekley Library.
- VII. Other Business: Jean C. will send out ranking criteria to members. At 8:57, Jean D. moved we adjourn. Jean C. seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Next regularly scheduled meeting: Monday, November 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Darlington (Secretary)