

**Town of New Hartford
Open Space Preservation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2013**

Members and Alternate Members Present: Jean Cronauer, Madeline McClave, Bill Michaud, Terry Moreschi, Karen Griswold- Nelson, Caren Ross. Others: Denton (Bud) Butler and Dan Jerram.

Chair Jean Cronauer called the meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and seated Alternate Terry Moreschi.

I. Meeting Minutes

No meeting was held in October.

II. Community Farms Preservation Program (CFPP)

Dan Jerram introduced Bud Butler (see Jerram letter to OSPC in October). Bud presented information on the CT Department of Agriculture's Community Farms Preservation Program (CFPP) begun in December 2011. He distributed a one-page overview of the program and the seven steps required to qualify. He and Dan said that New Hartford has qualified to become a member of the program. The OSPC can serve as the required Agricultural Commission per the DOAG. Some of the responsibilities of this function include providing information to local farmers, educating municipal officials about the program, identifying grant sources, enabling community understanding of agriculture, providing information and guidance on agricultural zoning issues, supporting conflict resolution and advocacy services, supporting agricultural viability and identifying innovative agricultural practices. Michaud moved and McClave seconded a motion recognizing that OSPC meets the qualifications of agricultural commission under the state definition for the Community Farms Preservation Program. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Membership

Cronauer commented to Jerram that the OSPC needs more members and asked that the resolution change regarding membership from Economic Development Commission and Board of Finance be placed on the Town Meeting agenda as soon as possible. Jerram said that it will likely be considered at the mid-January 2014 Town Meeting. The OSPC will revise the language at the December meeting and provide the draft to the First Selectman.

IV. Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate

Moreschi moved and McClave seconded to go into executive session at 7:50 p.m. Cronauer moved and Nelson seconded to come out of executive session at 8:20 p.m. Cronauer moved and McClave seconded to go into executive session again at 8:45 p.m. Cronauer moved and Michaud seconded motion to come out of executive session at 9:00 p.m.

V. Policy Initiatives

The OSPC Chair and members explained the Commission's positions on the lots of record and property tax abatement policies that we have been developing to the First Selectman. It was agreed to work further to simplify the one-page descriptions of these policy positions at the December meeting. Karen and Jean will try to work on the ordinance in advance of the meeting. Bill will get Dan the Public Act number for the tax abatement legislation so that Dan can check with the CT Conference of Municipalities to see what other towns besides Danbury might have implemented to date. Dan said he would try to call the town executive in Danbury whom he knows to ask about their experience implementing the policy.

VI. Stewardship: Members discussed various stewardship issues. McClave said that the Eagle Scout project to build two bridges at the Phillips Farm Preserve was approved by Inland Wetlands.

VII. OSPC Meeting Schedule for 2014

McClave distributed a proposed meeting schedule for 2014 (see attached). Cronauer moved, Ross seconded and all approved the schedule.

VIII. Other Business: None.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OSPC will be on December 16th due to the holidays.

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. (McClave/Michaud) was approved.

Madeline McClave, Secretary
New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission