

Minutes: OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CT
Regular Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2016, Sessions Conference Room, 1st Floor, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jean Cronauer (chairperson), Karen Griswold-Nelson, Rusty Warner, Caren Ross, Bill Michaud, Jean Darlington (secretary) Jean C. called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Caren moved that we accept the minutes of the December 14, 2015 and the January 25, 2016 meetings. Rusty seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Round Table

- We discussed the Town Sharing Session of 2/18/2016. Attendees had varying levels of awareness of the recently approved POCD. West Hill Pond's water quality and its importance for quality of life and economic development in New Hartford were discussed.
- CT Land Conservation Conference March 19, 2016 at Wesleyan University: Any commission member who would like to attend should tell Jean C.
- We discussed Simsbury, CT's Land Preservation Fund.
- We discussed the CT Dept. of Transportation's offer to towns of a free audit of road safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. First Selectman Dan Jerram is applying for that for New Hartford.
- The Town of New Hartford has recently hired a new zoning enforcement officer, Ruth Mulcahy, a highly qualified planner with an extensive background in planning and zoning. We look forward to working with her.
- We discussed the National Smart Growth Conference. Municipalities are now applying Smart Growth principles to analyzing demographic trends and their influence on development strategies.
- Homework: Commission members should finish their Open Space Plan paragraphs and e-mail them to Jean D. before the next meeting (March 28) so we can finalize our revisions.

III. Open Space Preservation Commission Budget: The annual budget for this commission used to be \$10,000 per year, which we used for appraisals, outreach materials such as mailings, continuing education, etc. Jean C. is preparing our budget for submission to the Board of Selectmen. We discussed budgeting for legal counsel on policy initiatives such as tax abatement and lots of record.

IV. Implementation Plan for 2015 Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). We should start working on items for which we are named as leader or partner. We should each pick an item to start working on. We agreed to start submitting regular reports to the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission to keep them abreast of our progress on the tasks with which they have charged us. We assume that P&Z will be looking for such reports from all commissions. The status of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) referred to in the POCD is unknown. Karen G-N offered to contact the Conservation Commission and the Economic Development Commission to discuss cooperative efforts toward achieving POCD goals.

V. Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: At 8:00 p.m., Jean D. moved that we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Karen G-N seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 8:25 p.m., Jean D. moved that we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Karen G-N seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: March 28, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Darlington, Secretary