

Minutes: OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CT
Regular Meeting: Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall

Members Present: Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Caren Ross, Rusty Warner, Madeline McClave, Bill Michaud, Jean Darlington (Secretary). Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Jean D. moved that we accept the minutes of the April 25, 2016 regular meeting. Bill seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Jean C. updated members on the work of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation committee, which consists of Ted Stoutenberg and Bob Moore from Planning & Zoning Commission, Jamie Hall from the Inland Wetlands Commission, First Selectman Dan Jerram, and Jean Cronauer from the Open Space Preservation Commission.

Open Space Plan and Natural Resources Inventory: Alison Murdock of the Conservation Commission wants to know about the maps. There has been some confusion in recent months about the status of maps that the Farmington River Watershed Association was going to create. We discussed the purpose of the Open Space Plan. The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) refers to it. We agreed that it should be a useful document with a clear mission. It should serve as a companion to the POCD in helping the Town of New Hartford to preserve open space. It can be shorter, and it does not need to duplicate information already stated in the POCD.

Tax Abatement Tool – steps to enactment: Bill described the informative overview he will present to the Board of Selectmen's (BOS) meeting on May 24, 2016. The Tax Abatement Tool would serve as an additional funding tool to preserve land as open space. Bill, Jean C., Caren R., and Rusty will attend the BOS meeting. The overview will outline the benefits to the Town and to landowners. It will also describe a formal system of checks and balances and present a series of next steps. OSPC members offered their suggestions to help Bill in planning his presentation.

Implementation Plan for 2015 Town Plan of Conservation and Development:

- Linear trail from Bakerville to Brodie Park South: Caren R. reported that she had met with First Selectman Dan Jerram and had walked a significant portion of the trail. Much of it follows existing roads that have been discontinued, not abandoned. There are places where these roads need some repair to make them suitable for walking. The BOS will fund the necessary improvements, signage, and blazing. Madeline said the New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) can help with kiosks, and Rusty volunteered to help with signage, books, blazes, and a website.
- We need to focus on the specific elements of the Implementation Plan for which the OSPC is named as the leader, especially trails, tax abatement, and agricultural lands. We also need to provide strong support to the lead commission on the elements for which the OSPC is named in the Plan as a partner.

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: At 8:00 p.m., Jean C. moved that we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Madeline seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 8:38 p.m., Jean D. moved that we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Caren R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next regularly scheduled meeting Monday June 27, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

At 8:39 p.m., Jean D. moved we adjourn the meeting. Caren R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Darlington, Secretary