

Minutes: OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CT
Regular Meeting: Monday, June 27, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall

Members Present: Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Rusty Warner, Bill Michaud, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Terry Moreschi (Alternate), Jean Darlington (Secretary). Guests: Denton (Bud) Butler, Dan Jerram (First Selectman). Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate and Subsequent Motion to Pursue Land Preservation Project: At 6:30 p.m., Terry Moreschi moved that we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Bill Michaud seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 7:30 p.m., Terry Moreschi moved that we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Jean C. seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 7:33 p.m., Karen Griswold-Nelson moved that we recommend that the Board of Selectmen pursue the Joint State-Town Agreement Offer to Purchase Development Rights to Farmland for the Butler Farm, New Hartford, CT, as outlined in the May 31, 2016 letter from the State of CT to Mr. Michael D. Butler. Rusty Warner seconded the motion. All discussion had occurred during Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Jean Darlington moved that we approve the minutes of the May 23, 2016 regular meeting. Bill Michaud seconded and the motion passed with two abstentions. Vacancy for Alternate Member: We have one vacancy for an Alternate. Jean Cronauer asked the members of the Commission to think of people to nominate for this position.

Tax Abatement Tool: We discussed asking Attorney Mark Branse to review the proposal because of his expertise in land use issues. The tool could help preserve smaller parcels, especially parcels that connect larger open space parcels or corridors. We need to educate the other boards and commissions about the tool before the next Town Meeting.

Barella Road – Brodie Park Trail: Last Wednesday, June 22, Dan Jerram, Jean Cronauer, Caren Ross, Rusty Warner, and Jean Darlington hiked the section of the trail from Marsh Road to Brodie Park South. We noted work to be done on Marsh Road. Dan Jerram reported that a few days after our hike, the town crew made some improvements (painting crosswalks and adding twenty yards of stone to Marsh Road, to be used to fill in several large potholes). Christine Hayward is checking with the State of CT to make sure we have the right to post trail markers on the state-owned sections of the trail. We discussed possible names for the trail. One possible idea was the Ron Eigenbrod Trail. Terry Moreschi confirmed that the Franklin Kearney Memorial Conservation Trail, which starts at West Hill Road, includes the blue-blazed section of trail in the woods to the west of the field at Brodie Park South. (There are no markers across the field to guide hikers between the two sections of the Kearney Trail.) Rusty Warner explained the mapping app he had used on his phone last Wednesday (June 22) when we had walked the trail. He and Caren Ross are working on checking property lines in the area. Jean Cronauer moved that the OSPC appoint Jean Darlington and Caren Ross to continue developing the trail. Bill Michaud seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Antolini-Phillips-Goula Trail: Jean Cronauer moved that Rusty Warner and Madeline McClave take charge of work to be done to finish marking and mapping the trail. Karen Griswold-Nelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. We discussed the roles of the different commissions with regard to trails. After a property is preserved, the OSPC develops a stewardship plan and the Conservation Commission takes charge of implementing it. The Recreation Commission does not involve itself in stewardship of open space.

Implementation Plan for 2015 Town Plan of Conservation and Development: The Planning and Zoning Commission is holding a public hearing about an overlay zone for West Hill Pond on Wednesday, July 13, 2016. We should attend. For any possible future trails along the Farmington River (F. R.), we need to follow the requirements of the F. R. overlay zone.

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: At 8:15 p.m., Jean Cronauer moved that we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Karen Griswold-Nelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 8:20 p.m., Terry Moreschi moved that we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Karen Griswold-Nelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Special Meeting Times: We discussed times next week when members of the commission are available for a meeting.

At 8:30 p.m., Terry Moreschi moved we adjourn the meeting. Jean Cronauer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next regularly scheduled meeting Monday July 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Darlington, Secretary