

Minutes: Open Space Preservation Commission (OSPC), Town of New Hartford, CT
Regular Meeting: Monday, July 25, 2016, 6:30 p.m., 1st Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Members Present: Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Bill Michaud, Caren Ross, Terry Moreschi (Alternate), Jean Darlington (Secretary). Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Bill moved that we approve the minutes of the June 27, 2016 regular meeting. Terry seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Tax Abatement Tool: Bill is going to talk to First Selectman Dan Jerram about the details of taking the tax abatement tool before the Town at a Town Meeting.

Barilla-Brodie Trail: Jean D. reported that Paul Mahoney of the Conservation Commission has made a supply of yellow aluminum blazes. We are waiting for the final go-ahead from Dan Jerram before putting them up on the trail. We discussed recent changes to State of CT statutes that protect municipalities from liability on hiking trails: <http://www.ctwoodlands.org/public-policy/recreational-liability>

Antolini-Phillips-Goula Trail: On July 5, Madeline McClave, Rusty Warner, and Jean Darlington walked on the portion of the trail that begins at Phillips Farm and goes west toward the Goula property. Madeline and Rusty are making plans for clearing overgrown sections, installing a small bridge, connecting the trail through to the Goula property, posting blazes and signs, and making other improvements. Bill reminded the commission that Marty Post (who is a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission) surveyed the property lines and the location of the trail before the Phillips and Goula easements were acquired. At that time, Marty had said he would walk the trail with us and help us to identify its exact route.

New Hartford Day (Sunday, September 18, 2016): Bill said there is a poster board somewhere that we have used in the past to display information about the goals and priorities of the OSPC. Caren will talk to Dan Jerram about showcasing hiking trails at New Hartford Day.

2015 POCD Implementation Plan: We have been focused on the hiking trails described above as well as land preservation projects discussed during executive session.

Other Business: On July 13, the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed West Hill Pond Overlay District amendment to the Zoning Regulations. The public hearing has been continued to this Wednesday, July 27. Jean C. encouraged commission members to attend and support the overlay district, whose purpose is to protect West Hill Pond's water quality. While West Hill Pond is still the cleanest lake in Connecticut, its water quality has been declining. In particular, levels of phosphorus and nitrogen have increased in recent years.

Link to proposed amendment: <http://westhillpond.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Zoning-Amendment-Mark-West-Hill-Pond-Section-5.7-II-MKB-REV-3-CLEAN.pdf>

Link to minutes of July 13, 2016 P&Z Meeting: http://www.town.new-hartford.ct.us/sites/newhartfordct/files/minutes/minutes-file/pz_07-13-2016_regular_meeting_minutes.pdf

Agenda for July 27 P&Z meeting:

http://www.town.new-hartford.ct.us/sites/newhartfordct/files/agenda/agenda-file/pz_7-27-2016_regular_meeting_agenda.pdf

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: At 7:14 p.m., Terry moved that we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Caren seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 7:42 p.m., Terry moved that we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Jean D. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 7:43 p.m., Terry moved that we adjourn. Jean D. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next regularly scheduled meeting Monday August 22, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Darlington, Secretary