

**Minutes: Open Space Preservation Commission (OSPC), Town of New Hartford, CT**  
**Regular Meeting: Monday, October 24, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall**

**Members Present:** Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Caren Ross, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Rusty Warner, Terry Moreschi (alternate), Jean Darlington (Secretary), Madeline McClave. **Guests:** Denton (Bud) Butler (member of the public), Dan Jerram (First Selectman)

Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Caren R. moved that we enter executive session to discuss real estate as the first item on the agenda. Karen G-N seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. At 6:45 Terry moved we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Rusty seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Butler Farm:** Denton Butler and Dan Jerram described a recent site walk with OSPC members Bill Michaud and Rusty Warner. After discussion, Terry moved that we pursue a linear walking trail along the western side of the property near the West Branch of the Farmington River to the point at the confluence of the East and West Branches, with a small loop around a little less than 6 acres of land at the point, back to the same linear trail (so hikers would park near New Hartford Elementary School, cross the bridge on Black Bridge Road, walk North to South along the trail, loop around the southern few acres, and then walk back, South to North, along the same path). Madeline seconded and the motion passed unanimously. There was consensus that we should plan for the possibility of a small foot bridge at some time in the future across the East Branch of the Farmington River. The purpose of such a bridge would be to connect the southern end of the trail with the Farmington River Turnpike (which connects with the Tunxis Trail). Denton Butler volunteered to sketch this route on a map and send it to Dan Jerram, who agreed to forward it to the Commission members. Jean D. will send Dan a list of our e-mail addresses. We agreed that another site walk would be a good idea. We discussed the different uses of the term “restoration of land.” While some consider it to signify returning formerly farmed land to agricultural use, others consider it to signify allowing land to return to its natural state. We agreed to qualify the term “restoration” with modifiers such as “restoration to agricultural use,” as in the case of the Butler Farm. After this agenda item, Denton Butler excused himself and left the meeting at 7:35.

**Tax Abatement Tool:** Dan Jerram reported that the proposed ordinance is being reviewed by New Hartford’s Town Attorney. Dan agreed to ask Land Use attorney Mark Branse to review it, as recommended by Karen G-N.

**Other Trails:**

**Brodie to Barella Road:** Dan Jerram reported that he had spoken with Peter Picone of the CT DEEP, who said we need to give the DEEP the GPS coordinates of the trail before posting blazes on the section that crosses State land. Madeline said she would ask a New Hartford Land Trust member to do that with us, perhaps as early as this weekend. We agreed that we should do this very soon, before winter weather.

**Trails being pursued by the EDC and the Trail Study Committee:** Dan Jerram reported on progress on a path from the center of New Hartford to Canton, possibly along the old railroad line and/or along the trunk line of the town sewer. It would go past Marandino’s grocery store, through the Satan’s Kingdom recreation area, through a section of the Nepaug State Forest, and south to Ramp Road in Canton. He also reported that he has been looking into grants such as the DOT’s Community Connectivity Grant and the OPM’s Grant for Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development for a trail from the Hurley building to Pleasant Valley. The Trail Study Committee meets during the day and has members from various commissions. Dan invited members of the OSPC to join this committee. Two OSPC members expressed interest, but the weekday meetings might not work in their schedules.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Jean D. moved that we approve the minutes of the September 26, 2016 regular meeting. Jean C. seconded and the motion passed with two abstentions.

**NHOSPC Archives:** Madeline said she would e-mail Jean C. a variety of documents regarding the histories of the Goula, Jones Mountain, and Phillips Farm projects.

**POCD Implementation Plan:** Jean C. distributed a publication entitled, “Planning for Agriculture: A Guide for Connecticut Municipalities, 2016 Edition,” published by the American Farmland Trust and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

At 8:07 p.m., Terry moved that we adjourn. Rusty seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Darlington, Secretary