

Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting: Monday, 5/22/2017, 6:30 p.m., New Hartford Town Hall, Sessions Conference Room

Members present: Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Karen Griswold-Nelson, Madeline McClave, Caren Ross, Jean Darlington (Secretary). Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: We still do not have minutes from the March 27, 2017 regular meeting. Jean D. moved to approve the minutes from April 24, 2017. Karen G-N seconded and the motion was approved with one abstention.

Land Preservation Fund: Bill Michaud still has a plan to investigate with Town Clerk Donna LaPlante the specifics of the sources of money into the Fund. We discussed the suggestion to investigate selling town-owned land to generate income for the Fund. Any town-owned land that is already an open-space set-aside or a possible good candidate for conservation would not be appropriate for the town to sell as a source of revenue to help fund current or future open space projects. We also discussed finding out if various types of federal funds might be acceptable to use as part of the town's matching share for the Community Farms Preservation Program including Highlands Conservation Act funds.

Town Budget Update: Because of budget problems at the state level, towns such as New Hartford are very likely to be negatively impacted. It is possible that the Town will not be able to vote on a budget until July.

Executive Session: At 7:00 p.m., Madeline moved we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Jean D. seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 7:40 p.m., Jean C. moved we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Caren R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OSPC Communication: The Conservation Commission has arranged for someone to update the Natural Resources Inventory. We discussed the need for a ground-verified, active farm map layer in addition to the soil map layer.

Trail Networks: On Thursday, May 18, Jean D. walked the Brodie to Barella trail with Tim Abbott of the Greenprint Initiative based at the Housatonic Valley Association so that he could map the trail electronically and integrate his map with GIS. Jean D. will call the State of CT to discuss a possible bridge over the stream beside Marsh Road, as well as posting blazes on the state-owned section of the trail. On the same day, Tim also walked the Antolini trail for the same purpose. Jean D. will ask Christine about whom to talk to at the State DEEP about installing the yellow blazes on the Brodie to Barella trail. Madeline met Tim earlier today so that he could also map the route from the parking lot on East Cotton Hill Road to the open water wetland on Phillips Farm.

Other Business: Madeline announced several upcoming NHLT events:

- May 27, 2017, Spring Wildcrafting
- CFPA CT Trails Weekend , Nepaug State Forest Hike, Tom Burkholder and Mike Tamsin, June 3.
- June 29, 2017, Bats, Gerri Griswold

At 8:00 p.m., Jean C. moved that we adjourn. Karen G-N seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next regular meeting June 26, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Darlington, Secretary