

Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting: Monday, 6/26/2017, 6:30 p.m., New Hartford Town Hall, Sessions Conference Room

Members present: Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Karen Griswold-Nelson, Madeline McClave, Caren Ross, Bill Michaud, Rusty Warner, Jean Darlington (Secretary).

Guest: Corinne Rebillard, New Hartford resident

Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Opportunity for Public Comment: Corinne Rebillard introduced herself as an interested member of the public who wanted to learn more about the current work of the OSPC.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: We still do not have minutes from the March 27, 2017 regular meeting. Madeline moved to approve the minutes from May 22, 2017. Bill seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Land Preservation Fund: Bill Michaud reported that he plans to investigate in depth the specifics of the sources of money into the Fund in the new few weeks. He plans to work with Town Clerk Donna LaPlante.

Town Budget Update: The Town of New Hartford is waiting for the State of CT to pass its budget before voting on a Town Budget.

Executive Session: At 7:30 p.m., Bill moved we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Rusty seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 8:15 p.m., Bill moved we leave executive session to discuss real estate. Caren R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OSPC Communication: no updates

Trail Networks and Mapping: Jean D. reported that there are two wetlands issues to work out before opening the Brodie to Barella Road trail officially to the public. On the section owned by the State of CT, the stream crossing beside March Road is much wider and deeper now than it was during last year's extended drought. On the section between Winchester Road and Barella Road, there is a wet, steep, muddy section that is very delicate and will need careful and expert work to protect the slope and wetland from disturbance by hikers. Jean D. spoke to New Hartford Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer Ruth Mulcahy, who offered good advice about how to proceed. We plan to make arrangements to speak to Gwen Ashbaugh, an engineer who serves on the New Hartford Conservation Commission. We also plan to contact other experts from New Hartford and the CT Forest and Parks Association (CFPA). We need to first decide what we want to do in those two locations, then determine costs, and then seek the necessary permits from the New Hartford Inland Wetlands Commission and the State of CT DEEP. We also discussed ideas for publicity once the trail is ready for the public.

Other Business: Madeline reported on New Hartford Land Trust events. The hike with Tom Burkholder on June 3 at the Nepaug State Forest for CFPA Trails Day had been very well attended and popular among those who went. On June 29 at Town Hall, Geri Griswold will give a presentation about bats. On July 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the Sabolcik property, Jay Kaplan of Canton's Roaring Brook Nature Center will lead an educational walk about dragonflies and damselflies.

At 8:25 p.m., Jean C. moved that we adjourn. Karen G-N seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next regular meeting July 24, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Darlington, Secretary