

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
Monday, 1/28/2019, 6:30 p.m., New Hartford Town Hall, Sessions Conference Room**

Members present: Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Caren Ross, Bill Michaud, Madeline McClave, Rusty Warner, Jean Darlington (Secretary). Call to order: Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes: Edit to minutes of 12/17/2018: Under Butler Project Conservation Easement, item #3: Change sentence, “We will also need to draft such documents ...” to read as follows: “We discussed the need for such management plans ...” Jean D. moved to approve the minutes as amended. Madeline seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Butler Project: Conservation easement, walking trail, signage, opening:

Jean C. read a draft of a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding the importance of completing the conservation easement on the 8.1-acre riverfront open space parcel before we post signs and open the trail to the public. Caren R. noted that the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s meeting stated that the town’s attorney approved of the language in the conservation easement, which was written carefully and according to widely accepted standards with the help of the New Hartford Land Trust’s attorney, who is a well-known expert on conservation easements. Madeline and Rusty volunteered to bring a draft for a sign to the next OSPC meeting. It is important to complete the conservation easement very soon so that the trail can be opened to the public this spring. Madeline recommended that we organize a joint meeting of key members of the OSPC, NHLT, BOS, and the attorneys.

Open Space Preserves – Goula, Jones management plans: Bill reported extensive logging that has been conducted in certain parts of the Jones Mountain preserve. We need to review the Kings Mark report about Jones Mountain. Bill volunteered to start drafting a document of guidelines for use of Jones Mountain and bring it to the next meeting. Madeline handed out the Town of New Hartford’s Goula Open Space Area guidelines for use; we discussed the challenges of creating a trail between Goula and Phillips because of the wet, brambly terrain and the narrow distances between property lines.

Tax Abatement Progress: Jean C. stated that she plans to meet with Cory Iacino about drafting a useful document for townspeople, outlining the steps involved in applying for the open space tax abatement program. Bill and Madeline volunteered to work with her between now and the next meeting.

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: At 7:30 p.m., Bill moved to enter executive session to discuss real estate. Rusty seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 7:45 p.m., Jean D. moved to leave executive session to discuss real estate. Bill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2015 POCAD Progress Report: Jean C. reported that P&Z had postponed her appointment to present our progress from January 9th for another two months or so.

Other Business:

New Hartford Land Trust events: Madeline reported that the NHLT will host a program about bears on February 7th at 7 p.m. at the Beekley Memorial Library. The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27th at 7 p.m. in Town Hall. The speaker will be John Himmelman, a butterfly expert. She also reported that the Sabolcik property is open to the public now for hiking along a network of short loop trails.

Regional news: Rusty reported that there will be a regional economic summit tomorrow evening at Infinity Hall in Norfolk, and on Thursday there will be a NWCOG meeting of Selectmen from various towns in Goshen at the COG headquarters.

At 8:00 p.m., Jean D. moved to adjourn. Caren R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Darlington, Secretary