

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
Monday, 3/25/2019, 6:30 p.m., New Hartford Town Hall, Sessions Conference Room**

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

Guests: David Krimmel, Doug Roth

Call to order, public comment: Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

- Caren R. introduced Doug Roth, a long-time New Hartford resident who is interested in volunteering and in land conservation and stewardship. He is considering offering to fill our vacancy for a second alternate.
- David Krimmel presented the commission with several ideas he has been researching regarding ways town-owned land might generate revenue for the town. He presented us with a 2008 list of town-owned properties and a map showing their locations. Some of these properties are protected open space, while others are not. Among the ideas he proposed were renting out community garden plots, timber harvesting, and outright sale of certain parcels that are town-owned but not protected open space. He recommended that we investigate which of these properties might be suitable for any of these potentially revenue-generating ideas.

Approval of Minutes: Madeline moved that we approve the minutes from the 2/25/2019 regular meeting. Karen G-N seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Tax Abatement Application: Madeline and Bill reported that they have been working on laying out steps for applicants and the Town to follow. They distributed copies of their ideas, as well as a draft of a notice of intent form. A number of details still need to be worked out. We agreed that we should have a meeting to work on this, preferably with members of the Board of Selectmen. Tentative date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

POCAD: Jean C. reported that she had attended the last Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to update P&Z on OSPC's progress on the goals specified in the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCAD).

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: none

Butler Conservation Easement: Madeline reported that she, Bill, and Caren R. had met with Ann Hall, a board member of the New Hartford Land Trust, on March 14, 2019, to discuss the language in the conservation easement. It will be important for the final language to reflect the open space conservation and river protection goals that are the purpose of this land conservation project. In particular, the specifications for the walking trail will need to be consistent with the language in the Open Space Ordinance and with all river protection measures that are in place, in particular the Farmington River Wild and Scenic designation. After the OSPC, NHLT, and BOS have agreed on the language of the easement, it will be ready to present to the voters at a Town Meeting.

Butler Signage, Opening Plans: Discussion postponed until the April regular meeting

Goula, Jones Draft Management Plans: Discussion postponed until the April regular meeting

Other Business:

- We discussed the OSPC budget for the coming year. We will need to make improvements to trails and signage on town open space land, in addition to a possible mailer. Madeline moved that we request \$4200 for the OSPC for the 2019-2020 budget. Rusty seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Karen G-N moved that we recommend the Board of Selectmen appoint Doug Roth to the OSPC as an alternate. Caren R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:10 p.m., Jean D. moved to adjourn. Caren R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Darlington, Secretary