

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
Monday, 4/22/2019, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall**

Members present: Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Caren Ross, Madeline McClave, Jean Darlington (Secretary), Doug Roth (recently appointed Alternate).

Call to Order: Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- a. 3/25/2019 Regular Meeting: Madeline moved that we approve the minutes with the following amendments under Butler Conservation Easement: The first sentence should begin as follows: “Madeline reported that OSPC members Bill Michaud and Caren Ross had met with her in her role as New Hartford Land Trust President and with Anne Hall, a board member of the New Hartford Land Trust ...” Add a sentence, “Madeline, Bill, and Caren also met with Dan Jerram to discuss the conservation easement.” Caren R. seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. 3/28/2019 Special Meeting: Caren R. moved that we approve the minutes with the following amendment to the first bullet point: “We discussed the importance of maintaining protections for the river; in particular, the protection of the town-owned Butler riverfront parcel. Representatives from the FRCC and FRWA said they strongly believe that any trail surface within the Farmington River Protection Overlay District should be permeable.” Madeline seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. 4/10/2019 Special Meeting: Caren R. moved that we accept the minutes. Madeline seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Tax Abatement Program and Application Process: Madeline passed out a new draft of the document we had discussed at the 4/10 special meeting. We continued working on editing it. OSPC members brainstormed questions and special cases that might come up over the years. We agreed that an attorney specializing in municipal law, preferably one who can work in tandem with an attorney specializing in tax law, will need to review our final version before it is ready to present to the Board of Selectmen.

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate - none

Conservation Easement for Butler Riverfront Open Space: Madeline reported that she had presented the latest draft of the conservation easement to the NHLT’s Land Conservation Committee. Then NHLT attorney Linda Francois reviewed it. The OSPC and the NHLT are steadfast that the walking trail should have a permeable surface. The draft should be ready tomorrow (4/23/2019) for Caren R. and Bill M. to present to the Board of Selectmen. Madeline volunteered to e-mail us when it’s ready. She pointed out that about one third of rail trails (which are constructed on existing engineered rail beds) are unpaved, so certainly a natural woodland riverside hiking trail can be permeable.

Summer Project Priorities and Plans: We discussed the tasks we are assigned to accomplish by the New Hartford Plan of Conservation and Development. Jean D. volunteered to ask Town Clerk Donna LaPlante which commission is officially charged with stewardship of town properties (both protected and unprotected) that are used for passive recreation; in the past, it has always been the Conservation Commission, so we need to find out if that is still the case.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Darlington, Secretary