

Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Regular Meeting Monday, May 20, 2019m 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall

Members present: Jean Cronauer (chairperson), Karen Griswold-Nelson, Madeline McClave, Doug Roth (alternate), Caren Ross, Rusty Warner, Jean Darlington (secretary). Karen G-N moved that we seat Doug Roth as a member today, to take the place of Bill Michaud. Madeline seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Approval of minutes: Caren R. moved we approve the minutes of Monday, 4/22/2019. Jean D. seconded and the motion passed with one abstention.
2. Butler Riverfront Parcel Conservation Easement: Madeline, Caren R., and Bill are scheduled to meet with First Selectman Dan Jerram on Wednesday. This topic is also on the agenda for the May 22, 2019 Board of Selectmen's meeting. There is a possibility of a town meeting in July. The OSPC agreed again that the trail surface should remain permeable to protect the river from runoff. Although this trail is not a rail trail, various people have suggested linking up the Butler trail with such networks someday in the future. We discussed the fact that one-third of all Connecticut rail trails are unpaved, one-third are only partially paved, and all paved Connecticut rail trails are constructed on stable, engineered rail beds, not on natural woodland terrain, so it would not be appropriate to construct such a major engineered rail trail at the Butler property.
3. Summer 2019 and Long-Term Project Planning: See items below.
4. Completion of Goula-Phillips Bridge Trail Linkage: Rusty and Doug volunteered to investigate work that needs to be done. They will need to consult with landowners and with the First Selectman. The Town of New Hartford and the State of CT DEEP hold the conservation easement on Phillips Farm. We also discussed work that the Conservation Commission needs help with at Jones Mountain.
5. Preservation of Brodie Park South: We discussed the Plan of Conservation and Development's instructions to preserve this parcel, as well as timing and teaming up with other commissions. We discussed the idea of sponsoring hikes to raise awareness of the Franklin Kearney Memorial Trail.
6. Executive Session: At 7:10, Caren R. moved to enter Executive Session to discuss real estate. Karen G-N seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 7:25, Jean D. moved to leave Executive Session. Rusty seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
7. FRCC Riverfront Celebration: The Farmington River Coordinating Committee is hosting a free public concert series on the following Sunday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. at the New Hartford Pavilion at the end of Bridge Street, beside the Farmington River: May 26, June 30, July 28, and August 25. More information can be found on the FRCC website: <http://www.farmingtonriver.org/> We discussed the importance of the federal Wild and Scenic Designation for protecting the river, the importance of water quality for economic development (especially tourism and fishing), and the importance of citizen involvement in river protection.
8. Tax Abatement Application: Jean C. will invite First Selectman Dan Jerram to our next meeting to discuss our progress.
9. Other Business: We discussed the Economic Development Commission's idea of an Open Farm Day in New Hartford. We agreed that many of the same people would be involved in running it and attending it as those who run and attend New Hartford Day, so it would be a good idea to schedule it for a different weekend.

At 7:50, Jean D. moved to adjourn. Caren R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Darlington, Secretary