

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Regular Meeting  
Monday, June 24, 2019m 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall**

Members present: Jean Cronauer (chairperson), Karen Griswold-Nelson, Madeline McClave, Caren Ross, Rusty Warner, Jean Darlington (secretary). Guest: David Rosengren

Approval of minutes: Caren R. moved we approve the minutes of Monday, 5/20/2019. Madeline seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Butler Riverfront Parcel Conservation Easement: David asked about the status of discussions regarding this issue. Madeline, Caren, and Bill Michaud met with First Selectman Dan Jerram on May 22 and agreed on mutually acceptable language to present to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) at their June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and to voters at Town Meeting later in July (date TBA). We re-emphasized the importance of protecting the river. There are many low-impact ways to maintain a durable, permeable trail surface while suiting the needs of pedestrians and protecting the river from erosion. The Town's use of the Land Preservation Fund places certain requirements on the use of the land, and the Town must adhere to the 100-foot Farmington River Overlay District setback requirements.

Completion of Goula-Phillips Bridge Trail Linkage: Rusty described plans for work to be done this summer and fall. He and Doug Roth plan to organize a site walk for the end of July.

Preservation of Brodie Park South (BPS): The 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development directs the BOS to lead the effort to protect BPS with a conservation easement, with the Conservation Commission (CC), OSPC, and New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) as partners. Jean D. and Caren R. will schedule a meeting with First Selectman Dan Jerram to discuss steps, timing, and coordination among the commissions. We also discussed the CC's recent efforts to encourage the BOS and RC to return to the Town's longstanding meadow mowing plan, originally established in the early 1990's by the BOS, CC, and Public Works Department and overseen for many years by the CC. This program left the lower section of the field beside Niles Road un-mowed until the fall to protect the habitat required by the biologically diverse species that inhabit the grassland meadow (as has been well documented in the 2010 BPS Baseline Study done by the Northwest Conservation District, commissioned by the RC, CC & NHLT, as well as the 2012 REMA Ecological Services report commissioned by a group of concerned citizens). The mowing program allowed the upper section of the field to be mowed for the enjoyment of picnickers, kite-flyers, and other passive recreational users. We worked on a draft of a letter to the CC supporting their efforts to protect this important habitat.

Executive Session to discuss Real Estate: none

FRCC/FRWA Riverfront Celebration, June 27, 2019: Karen N. reported on the concert at the New Hartford Pavilion. More concerts are scheduled there for July 28 and August 25, from 3-5 p.m.

Tax Abatement Application: Madeline and Bill have been working for several months on the details of the actual process that landowners would follow if they want to apply for this program. We agreed again that we need to invite First Selectman Dan Jerram to our next meeting to go over the specifics.

Other Business: Jean D. reported on a program about falcons at Sharon Audubon Center, as well as the CT Farmland Trust's celebration of its preservation of its 50<sup>th</sup> farm, Bristol's Farm in Canton (both 6/15). We discussed plans for public outreach, a booth at New Hartford Day in September, and a nature program the NHLT has been doing at Camp Brodie. We need to seek volunteers for second alternate, because long-time alternate Terry Moreschi has requested to retire from the OSPC. Jean C. will write Terry a letter thanking him for his many years of dedicated service to the OSPC and, before that, the Open Space Planning Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Darlington, Secretary