

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
Monday, September 23, 2019 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall**

Members present: Jean Cronauer (chairperson), Karen Griswold Nelson, Bill Michaud, Rusty Warner, Doug Roth (alternate), Jean Darlington (secretary). Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and seated Doug as a member.

Approval of minutes: Karen G. N. moved to approve the 8/26/2019 minutes with one amendment: Summer Progress Report, first sentence should read, "... organizing **and** conducting..." Bill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Report – New Hartford Day and Farm Tours: Jean C. Rusty reported on the success of the weekend 9/14 & 9/15. They noticed that the Farm Tours attracted visitors from other towns.

Tax Abatement: We discussed the most recent draft of the program description and process, including timing, what parts of an individual application would properly occur in executive session, and other details. Bill volunteered to make further revisions within the next two weeks and discuss them with First Selectman Dan Jerram so they can be publicized.

Brodie Park South – Tours and Outreach: Jean D. reported on discussions she has had with people knowledgeable about plants, wildlife, history, and public education, as well as ideas about hiking map cell phone apps. We discussed ongoing collaboration with the Conservation and Recreation Commissions and the best ways to communicate information about the importance of various wildlife habitats and the role of the forest in carbon sequestration.

Goula-Phillips Trail Linkage: Rusty, Doug, and Jean plan to walk the trail on Saturday to plan necessary work.

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: none

Butler Conservation Easement Update: Bill reported on the latest discussions with the Board of Selectmen, who pointed out the need for a management plan. Madeline had sent some drafts and samples of management plans. Rusty and Bill volunteered to work on that with her during the next several days. Special meeting TBA.

Other Business:

1) Rusty reported on a talk that the CT Forest and Parks Association (CFPA) did at Brewery Legitimus. Doug reported on a presentation he attended about the Coverts Project.

(<https://www.ctwoodlands.org/environmental-education/connecticut-coverts-cooperators>).

2) Karen G-N reported on the Housatonic Valley Association's efforts to achieve the Wild and Scenic designation for the Housatonic River. She reminded us about the Northwest Conservation District's Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 26, at 5 p.m. (<https://nwcd.org/wpsite/>) Topics will include the meaning and importance of the federal Wild and Scenic designation, federal funding for cleanup of polluted rivers, and a tour of the Bend of the River project.

3) Tomorrow night there will be a presentation about Climate Change at the Licia and Mason Beekley Memorial Library.

Next regular meeting: Monday, October 28, 2019, 6:30 p.m. Possible Special Meeting TBA.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Darlington, Secretary