

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
Monday, December 16, 2019 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall**

Members present: Jean Cronauer (chairperson), Rusty Warner, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Caren Ross, Doug Roth (alternate), Madeline McClave, Bill Michaud, Jean Darlington (secretary).

Guest: First Selectman Dan Jerram. Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Caren R. moved we approve the minutes of the 11/25/2019 regular meeting with the following amendment: page 2, under Butler Conservation Easement, line 3, should read, ... “Dan Jerram **and the New Hartford Land Trust** will sign it ...” Jean D. seconded and the motion passed with two abstentions.

Tax Abatement Application: We discussed with Bill the information to be posted on the town website, as well as a variety of “big picture” issues such as those we had discussed at the last meeting. Bill volunteered to call Dan this week to get the last details ready for the website, find out what the exact steps and process will be with BOS approval of process/forms, etc. We also discussed tax implications and sending out an announcement to the Town listserv. It would be desirable to confer with an attorney to discuss specifics regarding IRS 8283, Noncash Charitable Contributions.

Brodie South: Jean D. reported that she has been in touch with Joyce Hemingson, a member of the Botanical Society of America, about doing a plant survey. We talked about the need for a complete Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and about coordinating with other commissions who need to use NRI maps. The NRI was supposed to be finished before the last Plan of Conservation and Development. Karen G-N volunteered to bring some maps from Cornwall to show examples. Rusty volunteered to find out who did the recent NRI mapping for Norfolk.

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: At 7:40 p.m., Bill moved that we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Caren R. seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Madeline moved that we leave executive session at 7:44. Jean D. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Butler Riverfront Easement: Dan Jerram joined the last part of the meeting, and with him, we discussed erosion control for the three new pipes under the hiking trail.

Goula-Phillips Farm Trail Linkage: Doug described the latest plans for a bridge and a trail linkage, and we discussed with Dan some more work that needs to be done. A meeting has been set for February 8, 2020 with one of the landowners.

Other Business: With Dan, we discussed a wide variety of topics, such as goals for 2020, an improved entrance for the Franklin Kearney Memorial Nature Trail, Sustainable CT, the town’s new lease at the Beekley Foundation property on Town Hill Road, solar power, and zoning issues around West Hill Pond.

Adjournment: At 8:30, Bill moved we adjourn. Jean D. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next regular meeting: Monday, January 27, 2020, 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Darlington, Secretary