

Town of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes - December 15, 2014

Members Present: Jean Cronauer, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Madeline McClave, Bill Michaud, Caren Ross. Guests: Kathryn Boughton (Waterbury Republican), Rusty (Seth) Warner.

Chair Jean Cronauer called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Opportunity for Public Comment: Rusty Warner introduced himself as a New Hartford resident, soil scientist and plant doctor and gave background on his involvement in river issues in town and his professional work in southeastern CT. He has experience in engaging and messaging about environmental issues to different audiences. He is interested in possibly serving on OSPC.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Karen Griswold-Nelson moved, Bill Michaud seconded, and all except Caren Ross (abstained due to absence on 9/22) voted to approve the September 22nd minutes as amended (change third sentence of IV. to 'The Commission believes. . .'). Cronauer will write up notes from October and November meetings when there was no quorum.

II. Working Session on Updates for POCAD

Cronauer reported on her meeting with Steve Sadlowski of Town Hall. She learned that Glen Chalder of Planimetrics is being used as a consultant and coach but is not doing any writing as for previous Plan update. Cronauer offered that OSPC would update our own chapter. The in-house draft is to be done by January. McClave said that she hopes that the NHLT and OSPC will work with Conservation Commission to update and expand the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Michaud mentioned that he is working on a plan for the EPA on how to integrate broader plans of education with a town's POCAD.

Members discussed POCAD revisions, timeline, and tasks. Cronauer discussed integrating language about Low Impact Development (LID). Michaud suggested language that says 'Over the next five years, the town will implement a process to strengthen LID regulations.' Cronauer will work on LID and Open Space Chapter including references to the value of open space. She will also look at maps and possible greenways and will give some attention to the farmland section. Griswold-Nelson will look at regulatory language to see if needs to be made less generic and more specific. Michaud will work on language referencing 'aggressively using policy tools' to achieve our open space goal. All discussed looking at bigger picture concepts and strategic language for the Plan. Michaud and McClave will look at 'Guide Residential Development' section regarding water resources. McClave said she is working with Steve on open space map already and will continue. She said that she gave testimony about changing the labels for various types of open space in the revised Plan at the P&Z hearing on behalf of the New Hartford Land Trust. Ross said she believes that the 2005 Plan is strong and that implementation and communication with other boards and commissions is more of an issue than rewriting. Cronauer asked that members try to e-mail drafts in early January.

III. Establish Working Group to Update Open Space Plan – No discussion.

IV. Other Additions to POCAD and Implementation of Plan - (See II. Above)

V. New Hartford Land Trust Report

McClave said that NHLT is about to receive a small, new property near a town open space preserve.

VI. Stewardship Report – No discussion.

VII. Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate – No discussion.

VIII. Other Business

Cronauer will ask BOS to appoint Jean Darlington and Rusty Warner to the OSPC. Cronauer moved to adopt the 2015 OSPC meeting calendar as presented, McClave seconded and all voted to approve.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OSPC is set for January 26th.

Motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. (Griswold-Nelson/Michaud) was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Madeline McClave, Secretary
New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission