

## **Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission (OSPC) Regular Meeting**

Monday, July 25, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford Town Hall

**Members Present:** Chairperson Doug Roth, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Eva Barham, Mary Hoag (alternate), Jean Darlington (secretary), Madeline McClave. Absent: Bill Michaud, Rusty Warner. Doug called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and seated Mary, who was recently appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve as an alternate, as a regular member for this meeting. He welcomed her and thanked her for joining OSPC.

**Approval of minutes:** Karen moved to approve the minutes of the 6/27/2022 regular meeting. Mary seconded and the motion passed 5-0 (Madeline arrived soon after this vote).

**Open Space Plan:** We discussed last revisions to the 2022 update. Karen moved to approve the proposed 2022 updated Open Space Plan with final edits included, to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen within a week. Doug seconded. Final edits will include language that Madeline will email tomorrow morning (Tuesday, 7/26) and any last corrections that members might notice before next Monday (August 1). Jean stated that she will email the final version out to the OSPC later tomorrow, in order to give everyone a chance to read it again before next Monday. The motion passed 6-0.

### **Updates on Current Open Space Preserves and Trails:**

**Butler Riverfront Preserve:** Mary reported that the trailhead still needs a “no bikes” sign, and it needs replacements for the decals that were on the bollards. Madeline said she would make some new decals. Jean reported that a group of four NHLT volunteers had assisted entomologist [Carole Cheah](#) to release seven batches of ladybeetles known as [Sasajiscymnus \(formerly Pseudoscymnus\) tsugae](#). These beetles are the only known predator of the alien insect pest known as the [woolly adelgid](#), which has been infesting hemlock trees in Connecticut in recent decades. Carole’s research has shown that this tiny beetle is helping to improve the health of hemlock forests. Eva reported that volunteers had recently cleared the entire mile-long Helen Butler Riverfront Trail. We discussed the problem of Japanese knotweed; Madeline stated that she is working to reschedule the cancelled meeting with expert [Tom Zetterstrom](#). She also stated that the New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) has summer volunteers, so they are available for the next few weeks to help with the planned erosion control projects.

**Goula Preserve and Phillips Farm:** Eva reported that the ruts reported on by Doug a few months ago are still there in the lower field at Goula. There are other ruts caused by ATV’s on both properties. The blazes marking the hiking trail need improvement to help hikers find the correct path, and the trail needs to be cleared of underbrush.

**Jones Mountain:** no report

**New business:** Jean announced the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) 112<sup>th</sup> [Plant Science Day](#) on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lockwood Farm, 890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518. This large, free, public event includes numerous exhibits, activities for kids, and short presentations throughout the day. Details can be found at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Plant-Science-Day/2022/Plant-Science-Day-2022-Wednesday-August-3rd>

**Executive session to discuss real estate:** none

**Adjournment:** At 8:30 p.m., Karen moved to adjourn. Jean seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Next meeting Monday, August 22<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Darlington, Secretary