

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

Monday, September 26, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford Town Hall

**Members Present:** Chairperson Doug Roth, Mary Hoag (filling in as secretary in Jean's absence), Madeline McClave, Bill Michaud, Karen Griswold-Nelson. Absent: Eva Barham, Jean Darlington, Rusty Warner. Guest: First Selectman Dan Jerram.

Doug called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and welcomed our guest, First Selectman Dan Jerram.

**Approval of minutes:** Karen moved to approve the minutes of the 7/25/2022 regular meeting. Madeline seconded and the motion passed 4-0. (Bill arrived after the minutes were approved.)

**Open Space Plan–2022 update:** Doug summarized the Open Space Preservation Commission's updates to the Open Space Plan, pointing out that the inventory of open space lands is now current. Question arose concerning total acreage in New Hartford by Class of watershed land (I, II, III). We will confirm again current total and breakout by Class with MDC. Plan includes updated benefits of open space, particularly obvious during the pandemic. Dan Jerram noted A2 surveys continue to be done on other town-owned land, and GIS (geographic information system) mapping for parcels is being corrected. OSPC plans to update the plan yearly. Discussion of upcoming revisions included expanding the section on water quality, core forests and carbon sequestration, plus adding graphics. Karen moved that OSPC approve the updated final plan as the current plan, effective 9/26/2022. Bill seconded. The vote was unanimous. Dan will have the plan posted on the New Hartford website. Group requested that the previous plan be kept online for reference.

**Updates on open space preserves and trails:** Madeline mentioned Butler Trail needs maintenance and is recruiting volunteers to go there again this week. Bill may walk Jones Mountain on Saturday, 10/1, and it was suggested he invite Eva if possible.

**Executive session to discuss real estate:** At 8:00, Karen moved, with Bill seconding, to enter Executive session. Doug called for vote, which was unanimous. Left executive session at 8:10.

**Other:** The president of the Canton Land Trust (CLT) recently called Madeline about an effort to re-route the Tunxis (Blue) Trail in New Hartford. He has been working with the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA). The proposed, new route for the Blue Trail would go across CLT property. A section of it would be on Doyle and Yadach Roads in New Hartford. A failed culvert at Ratlum Brook on Yadach Road may mean that a bridge is needed to complete the trail. CFPA invited OSPC members to walk and look at the situation. Members agreed to do this after October 10<sup>th</sup>. Madeline will work on scheduling with CFPA and CLT.

Doug stated that OSPC is open to the public to address questions regarding preservation and open space issues.

Karen made a motion to adjourn which Bill seconded. Vote was 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hoag, OSPC Alternate