

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

Monday, October 24, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford Town Hall

Members Present: Chairperson Doug Roth, Eva Barham, Madeline McClave, Jean Darlington (secretary). Absent: Bill Michaud, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Rusty Warner, Mary Hoag (alternate). Doug called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Approval of minutes of 9/26/2022 regular meeting: Postponed vote until the next meeting.

Open Space Plan – 2022 Update: Doug volunteered to follow up with the Selectman's Office to find out when our 2022 update (finalized at the 9/26/2022 OSPC meeting) will be posted on the town website. For the 2023 update, Doug recommended that we insert a statement that OSPC has been New Hartford's agricultural commission since 2013, as recorded in Paragraph II of 11/25/2013 OSPC minutes (https://www.newhartfordct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhli961/f/minutes/minutes-file/ospc_minutes_112513_draft.pdf)

Updates on Current Open Space Preserves and Trails:

Butler Riverfront Preserve: NHLT organized and held a volunteer work day on 10/14/2022 with volunteer employees from local company, Altra Motion. Four of these volunteers worked with four NHLT volunteers (including OSPC members Mary and Jean) to re-route two segments of the Helen Butler Riverfront Trail away from the river's edge to help prevent future erosion. Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of these dedicated volunteers, the task was complete in under two hours. We discussed the Management Plan for this property; we need to be sure that the Selectman's Office has the most up-to-date version on file. We also need to schedule an educational session and work day to address the problem of the invasive plant known as [Japanese knotweed](#).

Jones Mountain: Members agreed to set Saturday, November 26th as the date for the annual fall cleanup with the NHLT. Eva stated that the red-blazed trail has been re-marked with very clear blazes. She said the white trail's blazes also need to be refreshed. She also recommended installing a sign to direct hikers back to the parking area. Doug volunteered to make a small, rustic sign to point hikers in the right direction.

Goula Preserve and Phillips Farm: No update.

Vote on Dates for 2023 OSPC Regular Meetings: Jean moved that we hold our 2023 meetings on the following dates (all 4th Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall except where noted): January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 20 (3rd Monday), December 18 (3rd Monday). Doug seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Other business: Doug announced that the annual conference of the [CT Land Conservation Council \(CLCC\)](#) will be held on March 25, 2023. For more information: <https://ctconservation.org/conference/>.

Executive session to discuss real estate: At 7:19, Jean moved we enter executive session. Eva seconded and the motion passed 4-0. Executive session ended at 7:33.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Next meeting Monday, November 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m., New Hartford Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Darlington, Secretary