

Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission (OSPC) Regular Meeting
Monday, November 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford Town Hall

Members Present: Doug Roth (chairperson), Eva Barham, Madeline McClave, Bill Michaud, Rusty Warner, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Jean Darlington (secretary). Absent: Mary Hoag (alternate).

Doug called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Eva moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2022 meeting. Doug seconded. The motion passed 4-0 with three abstentions.

Open Space Plan – 2022 Update: Doug reported that the Selectman's office is working on posting the 2022 update on the town website. Karen asked about our designation as New Hartford's agricultural commission. We reviewed past discussions on this topic. Doug volunteered to follow up on documentation (in particular, [OSPC minutes of November 25, 2013](#) and [BOS minutes of September 23, 2014](#)).

Updates on Current Open Space Preserves and Trails:

Rusty volunteered to join the list of trail work party volunteers.

Butler Riverfront Preserve: Madeline stated that she had sent an email this afternoon regarding the management plan.

Jones Mountain: The annual fall cleanup with the NHLT is scheduled for this Saturday, November 26th at 9:30 a.m. Members of the public who wish to volunteer should bring rakes. We discussed work to be accomplished, including eight large fallen trees across the carriage road that may require assistance from the Town.

Goula Preserve: Madeline stated that she has started working on a draft management plan. She volunteered to email it to commissioners before the next OSPC meeting so we can be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting (December 19, 2022).

Phillips Farm: No update.

MDC Class I & II Lands: We discussed MDC land in the floodplain along the section of the Farmington River upstream of Town Hall. Doug stated that we need to verify whether these lands are included in the open space lands referred to in the Open Space Plan. Bill said we need an inventory of these lands; he recommended that we post it on the Town website so the public will know where they are. Madeline said she has the list. Karen pointed out that P&Z will need this map for its next update of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Tunxis Trail: Doug reported that the CT Forest and Parks Association (CFPA) is planning to relocate a section of the Tunxis Trail in the area of Ski Sundown. Part of it will pass through Canton Land Trust land, and it will come out on Yadach Road, where a clogged culvert has led to a roughly 50-yard-long wash-out of this dirt road. Karen recommended that someone find out if the road was ever officially abandoned. Representatives of OSPC, NHLT, Canton Land Trust, and CFPA met to discuss the state of the road and possible solutions. Doug plans to meet with neighbors in the area to introduce them to CFPA and familiarize them with the plans.

Other business:

- Bill moved to approved the OSPC minutes of September 26, 2022, which we did not approve last month. Karen seconded and the motion passed 4-0, with three abstentions.
- Doug reported that the Town has approved payments of registration fees for members who wish to attend the annual conference of the [CT Land Conservation Council \(CLCC\)](#) on March 25, 2023. Interested members should let him know. The Selectmen's Office will handle registrations. For more information: <https://ctconservation.org/conference/>.

Executive session to discuss real estate: At 7:25, Doug moved we enter executive session. Eva seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Executive session ended at 7:50.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Next meeting Monday, December 19, 2022, 6:30 p.m., New Hartford Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Darlington, Secretary