

Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission (OSPC) Regular Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford Town Hall

Members Present: Doug Roth (chairperson), Karen Griswold Nelson, Madeline McClave, Mary Hoag (alternate), Jean Darlington (secretary), Bill Michaud, Rusty Warner. Absent: Eva Barham.
Doug called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and seated Mary as a regular member in Eva's place.

Motion to amend agenda: Karen moved to add approval of the 12/19/2022 minutes to the agenda. Madeline seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Approval of 12/19/2022 minutes: Jean moved to accept the minutes of the 12/19/2022 meeting. Mary seconded and the motion passed the motion passed 4-0. Bill, Karen, and Rusty abstained.

Approval of 2/27/2023 minutes: Karen moved to accept the minutes of the 2/27/2023 meeting. Bill seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Doug and Mary abstained.

Open Space Plan: We discussed keeping the Plan up-to-date every year, especially facts and figures that may change throughout the year. The New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) has been especially active in preserving land in recent years, so this table may need to be updated more than once per year. Bill and Madeline volunteered to work together on a table to keep track of preserved acres over time, to be updated whenever we obtain new information. Madeline reviewed the four new preserves that NHLT has preserved over the past year. These new preserves and their acreage will need to be added to the table and included in the Open Space Plan 2023 Update. Karen recommended that the Open Space Plan and management plans for open space preserves include language regarding preservation of forest land and its importance for climate resiliency, adaptation, and mitigation.

Updates on Current Open Space Preserves and Trails:

Goula Preserve: Madeline distributed a draft management plan for the Goula Preserve. We discussed it and made recommendations. Madeline volunteered to research and draft a mowing schedule. We discussed the problem of enforcing laws regarding ATV's, dirt bikes, and encroachment. Rusty volunteered to lead a hike from Goula to the South End Firehouse (date TBA). Rusty, Madeline, Bill, and Doug volunteered to work on signage.

Butler Preserve: Jean asked if a representative of the Town, and then a representative of NHLT, had yet signed our 2022 Management Plan that Doug had emailed to First Selectman Dan Jerram on January 19th. Doug volunteered to follow up with Dan this week. We discussed the need for replacement decals at the entrance stating various rules stipulated in the Conservation Easement (dogs on leash, no fires, no swimming, etc.), as well as small signs pointing hikers to approved river access points.

Jones Mountain: Madeline reported that, a few days ago, Eva Barham and Jerry Aleskwiz had raked and removed branches from the gutters along the carriage road, hand-sawed some fallen trees, and worked on unclogging culverts. We discussed organizing a spring work day.

Phillips Farm: no report

Report on 3/25/2023 Annual CLCC Conference: Doug, Karen, and Madeline reported that the conference had been excellent. Eva also attended the conference. Doug reported that Senator Blumenthal had been there promoting [HB6483](#), "An Act Concerning the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program." Doug volunteered to email the flyer about it to OSPC members and encouraged everyone to contact our legislators to express our support for this bill. Doug reported on the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Anne-Sophie Pagé, a young doctor of veterinary sciences from New Zealand, who discussed the Maori people's connection with the land and to the natural world. [Click here](#) for more information. Her full presentation will be posted on the [CLCC website](#). Karen and Doug reported that CLCC had awarded NHLT President and OSPC member Madeline McClave the Katchen Coley Award for Excellence in Conservation; OSPC members expressed our great appreciation for Madeline's tireless

dedication and long-term work to preserve land as open space. Doug reported on a session regarding grants. He especially noted the [Farm Viability Grant](#).

Other business:

- Rusty volunteered to spearhead an effort to formalize OSPC's role as New Hartford's agricultural commission and learn how we can support local and regional agricultural preservation goals. We discussed the [Farm Link](#) program of the CT Farmland Trust, which is a "clearinghouse for the transition between generations of landowners with the goal of keeping farmland in production."
- Madeline reminded us about the "Meet Your Greens" networking event sponsored by area land trusts on March 30th at Bad Dog Brewery in Torrington.
- Madeline announced a NHLT-sponsored Zoom presentation by Ginny Apple about [Fishers](#) (sometimes informally called Fisher Cats, but actually members of the weasel family). It is on Tuesday, April 4 at 7 p.m. People can [e-mail](#) NHLT (newhartfordlandtrust@yahoo.com) by **4:00 p.m. on April 4th** for the link to join the Zoom presentation.

Executive session to discuss real estate: At 8:05, Rusty moved we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Bill seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Executive session ended at 8:10 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next meeting Monday, April 24th, 2023, 6:30 p.m., New Hartford Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Darlington, Secretary