

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

Monday, April 24, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, New Hartford Town Hall

Members Present: Bill Michaud, Madeline McClave, Karen Griswold Nelson, Mary Hoag (alternate), Eva Barham, Jean Darlington (secretary). Absent: Doug Roth (chairperson), Rusty Warner.
Bill called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of 3/27/2023 minutes: Karen moved to accept the minutes of the 3/27/2023 meeting. Mary seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Space Plan: Madeline and Bill said they would get together to revise the chart of open space lands to create a running database of preserved land. Eva and Karen discussed issues of enforcement of deed restrictions and conservation easements (CE's) to maintain open space. Madeline and Karen talked about the importance of having a "party of standing" to defend CE's. Subdivision open space set-asides should not be sold; we need an accurate record of them all. We discussed developing a list of topics to discuss and collaborate on with the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission, including open space set-asides, perhaps at a joint meeting of OSPC and P&Z.

Updates on Current Open Space Preserves and Trails:

Goula Preserve: The group reviewed an updated version of the draft management plan for the Goula Preserve that we had discussed at the last meeting. We made a few more edits. Madeline volunteered to email it to the rest of the commission after she makes these changes. We discussed May 20th as a possible work day to work on clearing the hiking trail and removing invasive plants such as barberry.

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. The members present did not know if a Town representative had signed it yet.

Jones Mountain: no report

Phillips Farm: We discussed keeping a mowed path maintained around the edge of the field to provide continued access for hikers.

Other Business:

Hiking Trail through Antolini Woods and Surdam Property: This land is not preserved open space, but the hiking trail connects to the hiking trail through Phillips Farm and the Goula Preserve. The New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) provided a group of volunteers, including some OSPC members, to help the Town of New Hartford with hiking trail maintenance tasks on April 13th. We discussed tasks that still need to be done. Madeline volunteered to follow up with the Selectman's office regarding required forms to fill out.

Announcement of Events: 1) Madeline stated that NHLT will have a booth at the [Barkhamsted Earth Day Festival](#) on Sunday, April 30th at Matthies Grove in Peoples State Forest. 2) Madeline announced an educational presentation about invasive plants by Rose Hiskes of the [CT Invasive Plant Working Group](#) (CIPWG) on June 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sabolcik Preserve.

Executive session to discuss real estate: At 7:26, Jean moved we enter executive session to discuss real estate. Eva seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session ended at 7:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., Karen moved we adjourn. Jean seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting Monday, May 22nd, 2023, 6:30 p.m., New Hartford Town Hall. Respectfully submitted,
Jean Darlington, Secretary