

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Special Meeting
Thursday, October 3, 2019 6:30 p.m., First Floor Conference Room, Town Hall**

Members present: Jean Cronauer (chairperson), Karen Griswold Nelson, Madeline McClave, Rusty Warner, Bill Michaud, Jean Darlington (secretary).

Guest: Liz Lacy, National Park Service representative to the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC, <http://farmingtonriver.org/index.php/river/about>)

Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Butler Preserve Conservation Easement and Formal Opening: Bill volunteered to make a brief presentation to the upcoming October 29, 2019 Town Meeting. Madeline said that the New Hartford Land Trust (NHLT) will have representatives and their attorney present to answer questions, and Liz said that the FRCC and Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) will have representatives there to answer questions. Madeline briefly described Penn Trails (<https://penntrails.com/>) and volunteered to forward contact information to us. Liz described the National Park Service's Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Program (<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>), which provides technical assistance with best practices for maintaining hiking trails in sensitive habitats such as riparian corridors. She also described the FRCC River Stewards Program (<http://farmingtonriver.org/index.php/programs/river-steward-program>), which hires local people to serve as stewards of sensitive public lands, modeling behavior (such as picking up trash), sharing information with people who are using the trail, and generally keeping an eye on the properties.

Butler Open Space Management Plan: The Conservation Easement refers to a Management Plan, so we reviewed the preliminary draft of that plan and worked on revising it, to make sure it was both clear and consistent with the conservation easement. Bill volunteered to e-mail us the second draft this weekend. If we see any necessary edits, we need to e-mail them to Bill before Sunday morning. The Board of Selectmen will be discussing our latest draft at their meeting on Tuesday, 10/8/2019 at 7 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Changed to Monday, October 21, 2019, 6:30 p.m. (special meeting, one week earlier than originally scheduled) to prepare for the 10/22 Board of Selectmen meeting and for the 10/29 Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Darlington, Secretary