

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Special Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2019 6:30 p.m., Sessions Conference Room, Town Hall**

Members present: Jean Cronauer (chairperson), Doug Roth, Bill Michaud, Madeline McClave, Rusty Warner, Jean Darlington (secretary). Guest: Jamie Hall.

Jean C. called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and seated Doug as a regular member.

Approval of Minutes: Jean D. moved we approve the minutes of 9/23/2019 regular meeting. Doug seconded and the motion passed with one abstention. Bill moved we approve the minutes of 10/3/2019 special meeting. Jean D. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Madeline moved that we change her name to Bill's on item #2 (Butler Conservation Easement), and that we move item #5 (Tax Abatement) to the beginning of the agenda. Jean D. seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Tax Abatement Application: Bill reviewed the steps we have taken to work with the Board of Selectmen to put together clear pre-application and application steps to post on the town website. Jamie suggested we consider putting a timeline on the pre-application process, similar to the 65-day period with optional 30-day extension that Inland Wetlands uses, to give landowners a clear idea of the length of the process. Bill requested that OSPC members read the latest version of the pre-application and notice of intent and send him comments in the next few days. He plans to revise them and share with First Selectman Dan Jerram on Monday. We agreed to invite Dan to our next meeting to discuss; if he is not available that day (11/25), we will try to schedule an earlier meeting with him.

Butler Conservation Easement: Madeline (representing the New Hartford Land Trust) and Bill plan to attend the Board of Selectman meeting on Tuesday, 10/22/2019 to discuss and prepare for the 10/29 Town Meeting, at which the town will vote on the conservation easement. We discussed ways to train volunteers and workers in best practices for invasive species management and trail maintenance. Madeline handed out a one-page summary of the project and the final steps to be taken at Town Meeting and immediately following to preserve the 8.1-acre Butler riverfront parcel with a conservation easement

OSPC members should e-mail her any requested revisions in the next couple of days.

Goula-Phillips Trail Linkage: Rusty, Doug, Madeline, and Jean D. walked the trail. We discussed plans for a bridge. Madeline volunteered to set up a meeting with a member of the Phillips family, who owns the property.

Brodie South – Tours and Outreach: Jean D. reported that she has been working with a variety of people to try to coordinate public walks, starting in the spring. Madeline requested that we coordinate with the NHLT event schedule, and she offered a courtesy posting by the NHLT.

Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate: none

Next regular meeting: Monday, November 25, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Town Meeting to vote on Butler Conservation Easement:

Tuesday, 10/29/2019, 7 p.m., Town Hall Senior Center.

<https://www.newhartfordct.gov/home/news/special-town-meeting-to-be-held-on-tuesday-october-29-2019-at-700-pm-at-town-hall-in-the>

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Darlington, Secretary