



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

TEL. (860) 870-3120 TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE FAX (860) 870-3122

## ELLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2, 2016

### MEMBERS

**PRESENT:** Chairman-Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman-David Bidwell, Sean Dwyer (arrived at 7:09pm), George Nickerson, James Gage, Robert Zielfelder, Jr.

### OTHERS

**PRESENT:** Jim Prichard, Board of Selectmen, Liaison (arrived at 7:23pm)

**ABSENT:** Alternate-Ann Harford and Alternate-Walter Moody

**STAFF:** Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:05pm.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

### III. NEW BUSINESS:

#### 1. Discussion – Energize Connecticut Initiative: Dave Bidwell – Lead

- a. Information from Portland and Coventry - Establishment and Structure of Energy Task Force Committees

Commissioner Bidwell inquired about the emails from other towns sent with the agenda.

Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner, stated since the last meeting, emails were sent to the Town of Coventry, and the Town of Portland, inquiring how their Energy Task Force was created noting, each town responded. Ms. Houlihan reviewed each response and discussed utilizing the ideas as a guide to begin the Energy Task Force.

Ms. Houlihan reviewed with the Commission, each category of the email sent by Alison Jackson, Eversource, dated December 4, 2015, regarding Ellington's path to becoming a Silver or Gold Town. The Commission thought they should establish the committee and get it to Silver status and then work on outreach to obtain members for the Energy Task Force.

The Commission agreed to get the Energy Task Force underway, establish the committee, become a Silver attribute town and then focus on outreach. They also discussed ways to reach out to the public and work toward finding volunteers.

Thomas Palshaw, 120 Pinney Street, suggested asking the High School science students for assistance with outreach. Chairman Quarno noted the Commission is working on looking into asking the school for assistance.

The Commission stated they have no issue with becoming the Energy Task Force until it becomes too much in addition to regular duties of the Commission, also suggesting involving the Public Works Department before establishing the committee.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Houlihan noted working with the Public Works Director, and Eversource as a team effort will be very valuable to the Commission in establishing the committee.

**MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (NICKERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN (BOS) TO EXPAND THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE ENERGY TASK FORCE IN THE INTEREST OF FURTHERING CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AS PLEDGED BY THE BOS ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2015.**

2. Discussion – Open Space Ongoing Education: Rebecca Quarno/Sean Dwyer - Leads
  - a. Open Space Brochure

Ms. Houlihan reminded the Commission, due to staffing levels in January, the brochure will not be ready for review until the March meeting.

#### **NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

3. Update – Hockanum River Trail Association: George Nickerson – Lead

Commissioner Nickerson stated that Doug Smith, Ellington Hockanum River Committee, inquired if funding is available to allow sling walkers to safely travel the trail. Ms. Houlihan pointed out, the commission's contracted services account paid for up-front costs associated with the bridge project, leaving the budget in the red until reimbursement from the grant is received.

Ms. Houlihan asked Commissioner Nickerson to hold tight until Ann Harford returns, she may have additional contacts for assistance with this project through the Eagle Scouts.

#### **NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

4. Report: Working Farmland Preservation Program: James Gage/Staff - Leads

Ms. Houlihan stated she and Commissioner Gage, have been working with the Jobs Hill Road applicants to file the necessary paperwork by the January 15, 2016 deadline. She added the property has strong land attributes and doesn't see an issue once it is preserved, the town and the state will be eligible for grant money from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Commissioner Gage added, if all goes well, the only cost to the town will be 12 ½%.

Ms. Houlihan has not heard from Fred Spielman regarding the Middle Road property for possible preservation.

Ms. Houlihan announced, Bahler Farm will not qualify for a 50% match toward preserving the farmland, as previously thought. Pointing out, she and Commissioner Gage were under the understanding Bahler Farm would be eligible to qualify after the language between the federal and state programs were reconciled.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gage will reach out to Joyce Purcell, NRCS, to discuss what changed.

**NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

- 5. Report: Open Space Preservation Program
  - a. Discussion – Progress of 16 Penfield Ave, APN 010-020-0000.

Nothing to report.

**NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

- 6. Review: 2008 Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Chapter

Ms. Houlihan stated the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) was adopted in 2008 and in accordance with statute requirements, a review and update is done every 10 years. Ms. Houlihan provided the Commission with a copy of the Implementation Chapter, stating, now is a good opportunity to look at the current plan directing attention Conservation Strategies.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the topics pertaining to the Conservation Commission.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Houlihan advised the Commission to review the document and if anyone has any other changes or questions please let her know.

**NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

**III. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

- 1. FY15-16 Budget Expenditure Update – Town Staff.

Ms. Houlihan announced the only expenditure was the 2016 membership of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. (CACIWIC).

**NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS**

2. Election of Officer's.

**MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (DWYER) TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER QUARNO FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2016.**

**COMMISSIONER QUARNO ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.**

**HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED.**

**MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (DWYER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT COMMISSIONER QUARNO FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2016.**

**MOVED (DWYER), SECONDED (NICKERSON) TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER BIDWELL FOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2016.**

**COMMISSIONER BIDWELL ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.**

**HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED.**

**MOVED (DWYER), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT COMMISSIONER BIDWELL FOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION FOR 2016.**

3. Approval of January 5, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes.

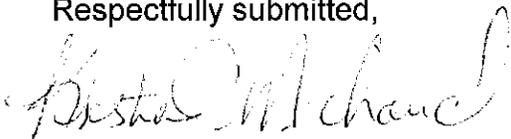
**MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED (NICKERSON ABSTAINED) TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 5, 2016 MEETING MINUTES.**

4. Correspondence: NONE

**IV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (DWYER), SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:10 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Michaud  
Recording Secretary