



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman David Bidwell, James Gage, Robert Zielfelder, Jr., and Alternate Ann Harford

ABSENT: Sean Dwyer, George Nickerson, and Alternate Walter Moody

STAFF: Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Troy M. Ciesco, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the September 6, 2016 regular meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:01 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items): NONE

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Open Space recommendation for S201605 – Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Inc., owner/Horseshoe Lane Associates, LLC, applicant, for a 8-lot subdivision known as Tripp Road Estates on property located at 146 Tripp Road, APNs 041-001-0000 and 032-005-0000 in an RAR (Rural Agricultural/Residential) Zone.

Ben Wheeler of Design Professionals and Bob Urso of Horseshoe Lane Associates were present to represent the application. Mr. Wheeler explained the proposal for the 8-lot resubdivision and described the area in question. He further explained that the developer plans to develop 14 acres and that the owner will donate the balance of the land, 58.6 acres, as open space to the town.

Mr. Wheeler described the open space as partially wooded and partially open, with portions of wetlands and floodplain. The parcel also includes a farm pond and 460 feet of frontage on Middle Road.

Commissioner Zielfelder asked if the area can be used for trails. Mr. Wheeler answered in the affirmative. Chairman Quarno asked if the area to be developed is currently farmland. Mr. Wheeler stated that it is a tobacco field.

Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, noted that the Board of Selectmen have discussed the potential donation and noted that accepting open space from a religious institution would not decrease the tax rolls.

MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (HARFORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN OPEN SPACE DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF 58.6 ACRES from Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Inc., owner/Horseshoe Lane Associates, LLC, applicant, for a 8-lot subdivision known as Tripp Road Estates on property located at 146 Tripp Road, APNs 041-001-0000 and 032-005-0000 in an RAR (Rural Agricultural/Residential) Zone.

2. Discussion - Energize Connecticut Initiative: Dave Bidwell/Staff - Leads
 - a. Clean Energy Communities, Path To Becoming Silver & Gold

Ms. Houlihan reminded the commission about the Farmers Market booth for Saturday, September 17 and asked for volunteers to answer questions about the Energize Connecticut Initiative. She stated that she will be there from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM, and that Allie Jackman from Eversource will be in attendance. Chairman Quarno volunteered to attend from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, and Commissioner Bidwell volunteered to attend from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

3. Update – Hockanum River Trail Association: Ann Harford – Lead

Commissioner Harford reported that Bruce Dinney and George Arthur assisted with walking the Batz Property and obtaining GPS coordinates. She also noted that they are continuing their maintenance of the trails but volunteers are still needed.

There was a brief discussion regarding the purchase of more trail maps to maintain the stock until the maps are updated.

BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF 150 HOCKANUM RIVER TRAIL MAPS FROM ELLINGTON PRINTERY.

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

Ms. Houlihan reported that she met with Mark Luginbuhl to address access issues for part of the property on Jobs Hill Road. She also reported that she is waiting to hear from the owner of the Spielman property and that the Anselmo property is progressing well.

Commissioner Gage stated that he spoke to the owner of the Dzen property, who told him that the family would discuss a potential farmland preservation proposal.

Ms. Houlihan suggested the commission decide on a priority list for farmland in town in order to decide which properties should be pursued for preservation. Commissioner Gage suggested basing this list on the criteria for valuable sites from the state.

5. Report - Open Space Preservation Program: James Gage – Lead

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY15-16/16-17 Budget Expenditure Update: Staff - Lead

- a. Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission, Inc. (CACIWC), 2016-2017 membership renewal. (Split with Inland Wetlands Agency).

MOVED (HARFORD), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE HALF OF THE EXPENDITURE FOR THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION AND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION, INC. 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

2. Approval of the August 2, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (QUARNO), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED (HARFORD ABSTAINED) TO APPROVE the August 2, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

3. Correspondence:

- a. The Habitat – Summer 2016 edition
- b. Landmark: Northern Connecticut Land Trust newsletter, September 2016
- c. Notice from the Town of Vernon regarding a wetlands application to construct a footbridge at the Hockanum River Linear Park at Windsorville Road.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Troy M. Ciesco, Recording Clerk