



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016, 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

## **MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Vice Chairman David Bidwell, James Gage, Sean Dwyer, George Nickerson, and Robert Zielfelder, Jr.

**ABSENT:** Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Alternate Walter Moody, and Alternate Ann Harford

**STAFF:** Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Savannah Blantz, Recording Clerk

## **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairman David Bidwell called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

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

## **III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:**

### **1. Discussion - Energize Connecticut Initiative: Dave Bidwell/Staff – Leads**

Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, announced that she received a check from Fox Heating, a partner and contractor in the Energize Connecticut Initiative, in the amount of \$200.00. Additionally, she shared with the commission that the new human services director in Ellington Joy Hollister, is very excited to be working the Energize Connecticut Initiative. Ms. Houlihan stated that she was able to get an advertisement for the Energize Connecticut Initiative in the next issue of Ellington Events that will be published on November 21, 2016.

Ms. Houlihan presented the commission with a Clean Energy Communities Dashboard sheet that compared the energy efficiency and renewable energy points earned by Ellington to the towns of Somers and Tolland. She also presented a sheet from the Energize Connecticut website that explained how energy efficiency and renewable energy points are awarded. The commission was also presented with an Energy Efficiency Fund Program Participation sheet. This sheet determined that in Ellington, 21% of households and 25% of businesses are participating in the Energy Efficiency Fund Program.

Vice Chairman Bidwell raised a question on the meaning of redeemed points and remaining points as shown on the Clean Energy Communities Dashboard sheet. Ms. Houlihan responded by stating that redeemed points have been used for projects that are funded through the Bright Ideas Grant and that remaining points are still redeemable.

Commissioner Dwyer questioned if schools are included in any of the presented reports. Ms. Houlihan assured Commissioner Dwyer that schools in Ellington are making efforts to use renewable energy and are included in the report data. The commission would like to invite a representative from the Board of Education to speak on this issue in the future.

2. Update – Hockanum River Trail Association: Staff– Lead

Ms. Houlihan presented the commission with a map of the Batzs property and trail network. She explained that there will be a blue, and peach-colored trail that will follow industry color standards that are easily visible during all seasons.

Vice Chairman Bidwell questioned how the trails will be maintained. Ms. Houlihan informed him that the trails will be maintained by volunteers and mentioned a possible partnership with the local Boy Scouts.

Ms. Houlihan spoke of a request by First Selectman, Lorie Spielman, to work on a grant that would create trails from the senior center to Main Street that would include outdoor exercise equipment.

Ms. Houlihan asked Commissioner Gage if there are any trails on the land trust property in Ellington and if they could be reflected on town maps. He stated that there are wooded trails on Swan Road and Sunset Hill Road and that he encourages trail use and details on town maps.

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

Ms. Houlihan stated that she has no new updates on the status of the applications pending for Jobs Hill Road.

Commissioner Gage spoke on the Farm Viability Grant which is meant to provide funding for the cost of a community service study. The study compares tax revenues of residential land, farmland, and commercial land and cost of services. Commissioner Gage stated that typically the findings presented by the study prove that in terms of taxes, farmland is worth preserving. He stated that he has completed the grant but is waiting on a breakdown of fringe benefits from the Finance Department.

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

The commission discussed an issue that residents have complained about. The Brady Property is the main point of access to the Shenipsit Lake on Kibbe Road. Mr. Brady has passed, his survivors have put up blockades to the access point. Ms. Houlihan has received a copy of a letter sent to the Board of Selectmen explaining the frustration of residents.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. FY16-17 Budget Expenditure Update: Staff - Lead

The commission discussed the budget expenditure update presented by Ms. Houlihan. Advertising and printing has a budget of \$550.00. Ms. Houlihan stated that she purchased more trail brochures, leaving a remaining balance of \$436.00. She stated that CACIW dues were

paid, leaving a remaining balance of \$295.00. Additionally, there were two expenditures from the trail group to Ellington Agway that brought contracted services to \$925.03

2. Approval of the October 4, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.  
**MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 4, 2016 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.**
3. Correspondence: None

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (DWYER), SECONDED (NICKERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:46 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:

Savannah Blantz, Recording Clerk