



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman David Bidwell, James Gage, Sean Dwyer, George Nickerson, and Robert Ziefelder, Jr.

ABSENT: Alternates Ann Harford and Walter Moody

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

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

The commission discussed the most recent Clean Energy Communities campaign which ran from July to December of 2016. Town Planner, Lisa Houlihan, stated that she would seek guidance from Eversource for ideas for another campaign. The commission suggested campaigning at the YMCA Farmer's Market. Ms. Houlihan also shared with the commission that she spoke with Rob Butler of Facilities at the Board of Education. She discovered that there is currently no board in place for Clean Energy Communities initiatives and plans to revisit and discuss this again with Mr. Butler.

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

Ms. Houlihan stated that there is funding available via the DEEP Recreational Trail Grant to plan and design a system of trails on town and private land that connect

Main Street and Maple Street. The grant application has not been submitted because of one private landowner's decline. Additional discussion is to follow and alternate trail locations will be explored. Ms. Houlihan shared that the second quarter of Ellington Events will feature a center insert map of Ellington trails.

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

There was no new status to report on the pending applications. However, Ms. Houlihan commended Commissioner James Gage on his work on the Farm Viability grant that included completing paperwork and performing research. \$7,200 of funding is being requested for a Cost of Community Services study. The application was submitted on November 14, 2016. The approval and award process takes 4 to 6 weeks.

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

There was no new status to report.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

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

Ms. Houlihan reported that \$74.97 was used by the Trail Committee for a product purchased at AGWAY, and another \$114 has been utilized for printing of trail brochures.

2. Approval of the November 1, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 1, 2016 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

3. Correspondence:

a. The Habitat Fall 2016

b. Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc. letter dated 12-21-2016

The commission discussed correspondence received from the Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc. The 44 acre Bellante property located on 14 Sandy Beach Road is for sale. The Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc. is interested in purchasing 37 acres of the property and has negotiated a price with the owner. The purchase will depend on funds granted by the DEEP. Commissioner Gage is currently working on the grant application and asked for the support of the Conservation Commission to strengthen the grant application.

MOVED (ZIEFELDER), SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENDORSE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE

Conservation Commission, January 3, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes

**NORTHERN CONNECTICUT LAND TRUST SEEKING GRANT FUNDING
FOR PRESERVATION OF 37 ACRES OF THE BELLANTE PROPERTY AT
14 SANDY BEACH ROAD, ELLINGTON, CT.**

V. ADJOURNMENT:

**MOVED (DWYER), SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:50 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:

Savannah Blantz, Recording Clerk