



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman David Bidwell, Regular Members James Gage, Robert Zielfelder, and George Nickerson

ABSENT: Regular Members Sean Dwyer and Chris Hattin, and Alternates Ann Harford and Laurie Burstein

STAFF: Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner and Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. in the Ellington Town Hall Annex, 57 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

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

Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, asked the Commission to add to the agenda a request to renew membership for the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) and distributed a copy of a letter from CACIWC regarding membership renewal and the 41st annual meeting on November 17, 2018.

MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (ZEILFELDER), AND PASSED (5 YES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSENTATIONS) TO ADD TO THE AGENDA A REQUEST TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP WITH THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION AND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSIONS FOR JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019, AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF 41ST ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018, UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS.

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Sustainable Ellington Initiative
 - a. Conservation Commission Master Action List

Ms. Houlihan presented a new list of actions from the Sustainable CT website with highlighted sections and additional information regarding submission requirements. The Commission discussed actions completed and others that can be completed by them within the next few years.

Ms. Houlihan reported she submitted information to Sustainable CT regarding C-PACE, Plan of Conservation, and the Farmland Preservation Purchase of Development Rights Program. She will submit information about the Commission's Clean Energy Community initiatives.

It's unlikely Ellington will qualify for Sustainable CT certification this year, noting the extent of actions and amount of departments that need to be involved to be certified. She attended the first official meeting of Sustainable Ellington with the First Selectman and Public Works Director. It's been reported to the First Selectman that more departments need to assist to take on this project.

The list of actions was reviewed and discussed with conclusion to change the agenda for upcoming meetings to include actions 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, and 4.3 as chosen by the Commission to focus on.

2. Update – Ellington Hockanum River Committee: Harford/Nickerson – Leads
 - a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Monthly agenda and minutes

Commissioner Nickerson reported a group of Big Y employees came out to the trail on West Road to help get rid of Knotweed. Commissioner Nickerson explained there's an old bridge on the West Road Trail that may need replacement.

Ms. Houlihan presented the latest agenda and minutes from the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee. She's meet with representatives from the Ad Hoc Committee to add new or re-established trail locations to Ellington GIS mapping.

3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program: Gage/Staff – Leads
 - a. Cost of Community Services Final Report

Status of the application for farmland preservation for Oakridge Dairy was provided. A site visit was conducted and the Department of Agriculture is looking at how parcels will be configured. Ms. Houlihan confirmed that because of the amount of land the parcels will be separated into smaller agreements and close over a 3-4 year period.

Ms. Houlihan noticed a few spelling errors in the Cost of Community Services Final Report and the consultant corrected them. She referred to the table in the farmland preservation brochure and suggested it be updated to reflect the outcome from Ellington's study. Noting limited space in the brochure, she suggested removing info from the community least like Ellington. The Commission came to a consensus to remove Windham from the list.

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

Commissioner Gage reported the Bellante property is fully funded.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY17-18 Budget Expenditure Update
FY18-19 Budget

MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER), AND PASSED (4 YES, 0 NAY, 1 ABSENTATION – NICKERSON) TO APPROVE DONATION OF \$430.00 TO THE ELLINGTON HOCKANUM RIVER TRAIL SUBCOMMITTEE FROM ENCUMBERED FUNDS FROM FISCAL YEAR 17/18.

MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER), AND PASSED (4 YES, 0 NAY, 1 ABSENTATION – GAGE) TO APPROVE DONATION OF \$430.00 TO THE NORTHERN CONNECTICUT LAND TRUST FROM ENCUMBERED FUNDS FROM FISCAL YEAR 17/18.

MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER), AND PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY) TO APPROVE DONATION OF \$430.00 TO THE ADHOC ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE FROM ENCUMBERED FUNDS FROM FISCAL YEAR 17/18.

a. Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission, Inc. (CACIWC), membership renewal for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (NICKERSON), AND PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY) TO APPROVE AN EXPENDITURE OF \$60.00 FROM DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP WITH THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION AND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSIONS FOR JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019.

2. Approval of the June 5, 2018 regular meeting minutes

MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER), AND PASSED (4 YES, 1 ABSENTATION - BIDWELL) TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2018 AS WRITTEN.

3. Correspondence:

a. Oakridge Times - June 17, 2018 and July 17, 2018

b. CACIWC Spring/Summer 2018 edition

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (NICKERSON), AND PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY) TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk