



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Vice Chairman David Bidwell, Regular Members James Gage, Robert Zielfelder, George Nickerson, and Laurie Burstein.

ABSENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Regular Member Sean Dwyer, and Alternate Ann Harford.

STAFF: Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman David Bidwell called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:02 PM at the Ellington Town Hall Annex, 57 Main Street, Ellington CT.

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

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Sustainable Ellington Initiative
 - a. 2.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory (CT-ECO Presentation set for April 2, 2019)

Staff from UCONN has confirmed their attendance at the commission's meeting on April 2, 2019.

- b. 2.7 Provide Education on Water Conservation

The item was deferred until next meeting.

2. Update – Ellington Hockanum River Committee: Harford/Nickerson – Leads

Nothing to report on this item.

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

Nothing to report on this item.

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

Commissioner Gage reported the Northern Connecticut Land Trust (NCLT) closed on the 36-acre Bellante property. Commissioner Gage reported the NCLT is working on a grant

for the 114-acre John Wraight property on Webster Road. There will be more to report in the future.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY18-19 Budget Expenditure Update

Nothing to report on this item.

2. Approval of the January 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes

MOVED (ZIELFELDER) SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2019 AS WRITTEN.

3. Correspondence:

- a. Review of conservation strategies for the Draft Manuscript of the Plan of Conservation and Development Comprehensive Review and Update Project

A round table discussion was conducted on the draft manuscript of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Commissioner Gage reported he has edited the draft further for the commission to view.

Commissioner Gage referred to page 35 and the Transfer of Developmental Rights section. He felt this item may be omitted from the final draft, noting that it's a program that has not been used in the past. Commissioner Gage reported that some of the suggested initiatives listed on page 39 of the draft are already in progress.

The commission analyzed the draft and the changes suggested by Commissioner Gage. They agreed to keep all the sections present and leave the removal of anything up to Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Commissioner Gage noted that at the top of page 35 the commission's Plan of Conservation is recommended to be adopted as an appendix to the POCD.

- b. Oakridge Times January 18, 2019.

Nothing to report on this item.

- c. Eversource Energy notification of routine vegetation maintenance within electrical right of ways in the Town of Ellington

Nothing to report on this item.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (ZIELFELDER) SECONDED (BURSTEIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk