

**Town of East Windsor
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Location:

Town Hall Rye St.

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER – 8:10

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Attended by: Albert Grant, Donna Grant, Rich Tuller,

Absent: Kurt Kebschull, Fran Neill

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Minutes for 10-28-23

Rich Tuller questioned item 2 under new business.

“Members would like to follow up with the idea that Town rental income from Town Farmland could be designated to go into the Open Space Fund.”

The minutes did not note any discussion and Mr. Tuller also did not recall the topic or any discussion. It was not an agenda item. The sentence was probably made in passing. It was decided to eliminate that sentence as a correction. Motion to accept the minutes with correction was made by Albert Grant 2nd Rich Tuller. Motion passed.

(It did however cause some confusion. Rich Tuller, as a member of the public, attended the Ag. Comm. meeting of 1-24-25 which had just adjourned and he noted the topic was discussed and it was suggested that funds go to Town farm fields restoration and reclamation; leading to confusion of where the 2 Commissions would like the rental funds to go.)

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Town Owned Open Space Sales Handling discussion

Documents (see attached) were included in the meeting packets for the Conservation Commission meeting by the Planning and Zoning Department regarding a request that was made to the Town, to transfer a Town-owned open space subdivision parcel to an abutter. The Board of Selectmen made a referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The request was denied by the PZC. The result of that decision was brought to our attention by the Planning and Zoning Dept. Discussion ensued with particular input from Selectman Keith Yagaloff on

whether the Conservation Commission felt it would be appropriate to include the Conservation Commission when decisions on sale or transfer of Town owned open space were being considered. Commission members may have informed knowledge of why or why not parcels should be sold or transferred and their future use. Discussion about if parcels are sold, the funds should go the Town's Open Space Fund.

There are little chunks of Town open space land around town, as a result of subdivision set-asides from many years ago. It is currently the case that fee-in-lieu of set-asides is the preferred alternative.

The Commissioners were all in agreement that the Commission should be able to make a recommendation to the Town Board of Selectmen and Planning and Zoning Dept. on whether to sell or transfer a piece of town owned open space.

2. Discussion regarding the distribution of Brochures the Commission created to promote preserving Open Space and Farmland. Commissioners were in agreement to pursue a mailing to the people whose property are on the PA490 list. We will need mailing labels and see if town will cover postage. Also discussed places where the brochures can be left for the public to pick up, such as the Warehouse Point Library and possibly restaurants.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review properties on the PA490 list.
Did not address.

2. Discussion- Scenic Rd. ordinance.

A couple of Commissioners had looked at the State ordinance for Scenic roads as well as several town ordinances. Copies will be brought to the next meeting. The POCD includes The Conservation Commission in the implementation of Scenic Roads, as well as the PZC and the Historical Commission. It was noted that the CT Siting Council, in a public hearing, had questioned if the Thrall Rd. property, being considered for a Solar Farm, was listed as a Scenic Rd. in the Town's POCD. It is not. There is the possibility they would use that as a criterion in their decision making.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

none

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

none

VIII. REPORTS OF STAFF

none

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

none

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XI. ADJOURMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Albert Grant. 2nd Rich Tuller. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Donna Grant, recording secretary