



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

www.ellington-ct.gov

Tel. 860-870-3120 Town Planner's Office Fax. 860-870-3122

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020, 7:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING**

**(IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE NOT PERMITTED DUE TO COVID19)
(INSTRUCTIONS TO JOIN VIRTUAL MEETING PROVIDED BELOW)**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items):

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Sustainable Ellington Initiative
 - a. 2.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory
 - b. 2.7 Provide Education on Water Conservation
2. Update – Ellington Hockanum River Committee: Harford/Nickerson – Leads
 - a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Monthly agenda/minutes
3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program: Gage/Staff – Leads
4. Report - Open Space Preservation Program: Gage – Lead

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 20-21 Budget Expenditure Update
2. Approval of the September 1, 2020 regular meeting minutes
3. Correspondence:
 - a. CACIWC Membership Renewal Fees 2020-21
 - b. Letter dated September 23, 2020 from The Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England Official Registry

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Note: Next regular meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2020

In order to comply with COVID-19 limited in-person meetings and social distancing requirements, this meeting will be conducted using the online video conferencing service provider Zoom. Meeting details will be provided on the Agenda and posted on the Ellington webpage (www.ellington-ct.gov), Agenda & Minutes, Conservation Commission.

Join Zoom Meeting via link:
<https://zoom.us/j/92490077503>
Meeting ID: 924 9007 7503
Password: 923933

Join Zoom Meeting by phone:
1-646-558-8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 924 9007 7503
Password: 923933



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

LAUREN DESROCHER
CHAIRMAN

VALERIE AMSEL
PAM MCCORMICK
ERIN STAVENS
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM
LINDA ANDERSON
JUDI MANFRE
ANN MCLAUGHLIN

AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2020
Via GoToMeeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren Desrocher, Linda Anderson, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Judi Manfre, Val Amsel, Pam McCormick, Cynthia van Zelm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann McLaughlin, Erin Stavens

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Tom Palshaw

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Desrocher called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. CITIZENS FORUM: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 1, 2020

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (ANDERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 1, 2020 MEETING MINUTES.

B. June 17, 2020

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (TIMMS-FERRARA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JUNE 17, 2020 MEETING MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Farmers Market/Ribbon Cutting Recap

Cynthia van Zelm stated that Pam McCormick, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Linda Anderson, Val Amsel and herself were all in attendance at the market and handed out nearly all of the maps provided for the Batz and Kimball properties. A list of emails was collected for potential volunteers. Cynthia stated that she believed the position of the table within the Farmer's Market was beneficial.

Chairman Desrocher and Ms. Anderson recapped the ribbon cutting for the Sensory Garden which was well attended. Committee members present at the event were able to assess the proposed site for the wheelchair accessible platform which would overlook the frog pond.

Ms. Anderson discussed the Raptor program held at the Batz property in July. The event was a successful joint venture with the Hall Memorial Library and was well attended. Guests were respectful of social distancing requirements and wore masks.

B. Safety Marker Presentation – Tom Palshaw

Tom Palshaw went through the presentation that he had created regarding the proposed safety markers [ATTACHED]. The Committee will continue discussion of this proposed project at the next meeting so that work can get underway over the winter.

C. Current Project Updates

Ms. Anderson attended a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting where the Tripp Road development, which would grant access to the Eversource land proposed for a walking/bike path, was voted down. This project will be tabled until further notice. Unfortunately, the bats expert originally booked for a program at Batz will not be able to work an event this year due to health concerns. Eagle Scout Ben Lipman met with Ms. Anderson to discuss the relocation of his proposed Composting Project and to have his plans signed for approval. Judi Manfre built and installed two resting benches on the Kimball Forest trail and proposes one additional bench for that property in the future. Ms. Amsel placed directional signs and signs regarding tick warnings, as well as boundary markers, on the Batz trails. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Amsel were able to continue work on the Kimball extension trail and will blaze in the near future, changing the color of the blazes to avoid confusion with the Shenipsit Trail across the road. The proposed well improvement project at the Batz property has been tabled as the existing well does not appear viable and a hand pump for surface water would need to be located too far from the gardens to be convenient. It may be possible to look into adding an additional rain collection tank in the future. The front field has recently been mowed and due to the drought, it may be a good time to seed for a wildflower meadow. The Fire Department continues to fill the water collection tanks throughout the drought. Bruce Dinnie has been working to clear a new trail in the Metcalf property to reroute around the fallen trees from 2019. The trail needs re-blazing and weeds need to be removed from the road entrance.

D. Discussion of Invasive Plant Maintenance

Ms. Manfre addressed the needs for removing invasives along the exposed portions of the Batz Trail and recommends focusing on one species at a time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Winter Work Planning

Winter work planning will be discussed at the October meeting.

B. Youth Liaison Consideration

Ms. van Zelm met two young men at the Farmers Market who were interested in joining the Committee; the Committee was advised that regular members must be over the age of 18, but a request could be made to the Board of Selectmen to add student/associate member positions. Ms. van Zelm will communicate this to the interested parties.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**A. Treasurer**

Ms. Timms-Ferrara reminded the members that the Finance Department has requested that purchases only be made through approved vendors, as they would prefer not to reimburse individuals by check. She will request a list of approved vendors.

B. Planning & Development

Ms. Anderson will attend the next Inland Wetlands Agency meeting to discuss the proposed platform at the frog pond; she and Mr. Dinnie will create a schematic to be shown. It is important to get this project underway soon while conditions are dry and the water level is low. Ms. Anderson and Ms. van Zelm will work through the necessary avenues to gain approval for the proposed amphitheater at the Batz Property, and will then begin the grant process to secure funding. Chairman Desrocher will look into purchasing two wildlife cameras for the Kimball Forest trails.

C. Maintenance

Ms. Amsel reported that maintenance continues on invasive plants and they may look into purchasing a specialty tool to pull them out by the root. Ms. Manfre will be working to create a visual guide to invasives for the full Committee.

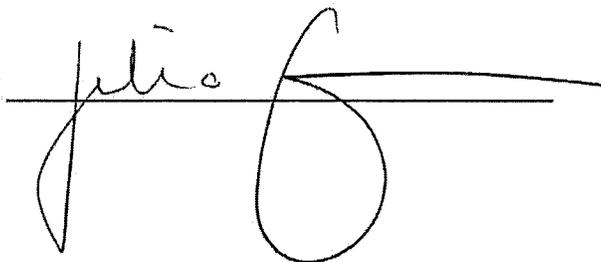
D. Community Outreach

Ms. Timms-Ferrara wrote and submitted the Committee summary for the Annual Report. Ms. van Zelm will put together the next newsletter piece. Ms. McCormick requested that the cancellation of the Trail of Treats be posted on the Trails Facebook page at this time; Ms. Anderson will communicate this cancellation to Julia Connor to have it disbursed on the Town's social media as well.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (ANDERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:42 PM.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right of the line.

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TOWN OF ELLINGTON
BUDGET REPORT 2020-21

	2020-21 Approved Budget	Trans/ Add'l Appr.	Adjusted Approved Budget
0270 - CONSERVATION COMMISSION			
01-02-00-00270-10-50103 Part Time	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60221 Advertising Printing Forms	550.00	0.00	550.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60222 Dues & Subscriptions	350.00	0.00	350.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60223 Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60234 Professional Development	100.00	0.00	100.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60250 Contracted Services	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60254 St of Ct Surcharges	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60341 Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-30-60341 Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00

9/29/2020

TOWN PLANNER D

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9/29/2020
11:27 AM

TOWN OF ELLINGTON
BUDGET REPORT 2019-2020
For the Three Months Ending Wednesday, September 30,
2020

	July	August	September	YTD Detail
0270 - CONSERVATION COMMISSION				
01-02-00-00270-10-50103 Part Time	130.00	0.00	0.00	130.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60221 Advertising Printing Forms	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60222 Dues & Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60223 Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60234 Professional Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60250 Contracted Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60254 St of Ct Surcharges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-20-60341 Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-02-00-00270-30-60341 Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	130.00	0.00	0.00	130.00



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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020, 7:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING
(IN-PERSON PUBLIC ATTENDANCE NOT PERMITTED DUE TO COVID19)
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROVIDED VIA ZOOM)**

PRESENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Regular Members Robert Zielfelder, Laurie Burstein and James Gage and Alternates Ann Harford and Jessica Fay

ABSENT: Vice Chairman David Bidwell and Regular Members Sean Dwyer and George Nickerson

STAFF: Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner and Christine Post, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

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

Chairman Quarno introduced and welcomed the new commission member, Jessica Fay.

II. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Sustainable Ellington Initiative
 - a. 2.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory

Ms. Houlihan reported that she received a response to her request regarding the natural diversity database information from the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) by way of a letter dated August 14, 2020 which includes detailed information regarding bird, turtle and snake species known to be in different areas of Ellington. Ms. Houlihan asked the commission for advice as to how to incorporate this into the Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory. Commissioner Gage suggested adding the letter as an appendix to the inventory. Chairman Quarno suggested including a summary paragraph in the inventory to introduce the topic and include the letter as an attachment. Ms. Houlihan reported that the DEEP suggests the natural diversity database be reviewed whenever there is a project that falls within those areas and stated that she will draft a summary paragraph for the commission's review.

Ms. Houlihan prepared a section for the inventory setting forth an overview of the Shenipsit Lake and wants to incorporate Crystal Lake as well. Commissioner Harford remarked that Shenipsit Lake is the beginning of the Hockanum River. Commissioner Gage suggested changing the language for Shenipsit Lake to indicate that it is a reservoir. Commissioner Zielfelder suggested including the Shenipsit Forest and Nye Holman Forest to the section in connection with the endangered species. Ms.

Houlihan's goal is to tie this section into the Plan of Conservation and Development so that the two (2) documents compliment and refer to each other.

b. 2.7 Provide Education on Water Conservation

Nothing new to report.

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

Commissioner Harford reported that the trails off West Road had a lot of damage from the storm several weeks ago. She said there are 25 trees down and the trails north of Sullivan Tire are blocked. She stated there is quite a mess south of Sullivan Tire including 4 or 5 trees in the river. The trails committee has been clearing brush to get to the trees in the river. They stopped mowing 3 weeks ago due to lack of rain and once the river is cleared of the debris, they will then complete the mowing. Commission Harford indicated that Public Works was called to help due to the size of the trees. The committee sent pictures of the damage to Public Works because the trees are 3 to 4 feet wide and 50 feet tall which is beyond the trails committee's capability to clear.

- b. Review of proposed minor site improvements on town-owned land, Batz property, 97 Shenipsit Street, APN 030-005-0000, Residential (R) Zone

Ms. Houlihan reported she brought the site plan to the Planning & Zoning Commission which generally controls site plan review for parks. The Planning & Zoning Commission granted Ms. Houlihan the authority for staff level review as a minor site plan modification. There are proposed bridges in wetlands areas along with an amphitheater to be built as shown on the site plan in the second field.

3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program: Gage/Staff – Leads
a. Status - Oakridge Dairy Application, Jobs Hill and Meadow Brook Roads.

Ms. Houlihan reported that the Finance Department has decided that the best funding source for this project is for the Town of Ellington to approve a bond. A summary of the terms will be presented to Board of Selectmen notifying them that there will be formal motions put before them in October asking them to pass it, approve it and send it to town meeting.

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

Commissioner Gage reported that the Land Trust is still waiting for DEEP to release the grant money to purchase the Wraight property. He further indicated that the Land Trust was contacted by a solar power organization interested in the Swan Farm and Meyers Farm on Reese Road, which is a total of just over 100 acres, for solar farming. However, the Land Trust turned down the proposal because both farms are protected by a DEEP conservation easement and are prime farmland. Commissioner Harford queried what the minimum land requirement was to support a solar project, and Ms. Houlihan indicated it is dependent on the size of the project. Ms. Houlihan also indicated that the DEEP has added procurement processes via legislation which is tied to certain megawatts of clean energy.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 20-21 Budget Expenditure Update

The only expenditure during the last month is for the part time salary for the recording secretary.

2. Approval of the July 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes

MOVED (GAGE) SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

3. Correspondence:

- a. Pursuant to CGS Section 16-15j-40(a), Letter from Pullman & Comley, dated August 5, 2020, pertaining to East Windsor Solar One, LLC petition of Declaratory Ruling for solar project on East Road in East Windsor south of Middle Road and west of Tripp Road.

Ms. Houlihan stated that the portion of land which is in Ellington will not be impacted by this solar project. The Town of Ellington is being notified because the proposed solar project is within 2,500 feet of Ellington and the Board of Selectmen has the right to hold hearings. Ms. Houlihan showed the commissioners the property in question on the GIS map.

The Commission discussed whether the next meeting would be via zoom or held in person. Ms. Houlihan explained that the Governor's Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness due to the pandemic from March was set to expire September 9th, however, just this afternoon the Governor extended it until next year, February 9, 2021. The new expiration date coincides with the legislative session and legislators will be available to address the issue if any further extension is needed. The Governor will still have to extend all the different executive orders including the one allowing zoom meetings for municipal agencies. Ms. Houlihan will continue to monitor the updates. The commissioners agreed they are more comfortable with continuing zoom meetings and agreed to plan on a month by month basis.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Post, Recording Clerk



Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

To: CACIWC Members and Supporters:

Membership Dues for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 Are Due.

Please consider joining CACIWC or renewing your membership.

Your annual dues support CACIWC education and outreach programs, the Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, the publication and distribution of our newsletter The Habitat, the CACIWC.org website and CACIWC's operational budget. Please note that we have not increased membership fees for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Your continued support is vital to our mission to promote the statutory responsibilities of Connecticut Conservation Commissions and Inland Wetlands Agencies, and to foster environmental quality through education and through the conservation and protection of wetlands and other natural resources.

CACIWC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please complete the below form and return to with your check payable to CACIWC at: CACIWC; deKoven House Community Center; 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

CACIWC MEMBERSHIP - July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Voting: Commissions & Agencies

- One Commission \$ 65.00
- One Commission (Sustaining Member) \$ 75.00
- Two Commissions \$ 120.00 $\div 2 = \$60.00$ per commission
- Two Commissions (Sustaining Member) \$ 150.00

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership

Non-Voting: Individual, Organization, Business

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization/Business \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saw-Whet Owl \$35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization/Business (Supporting Member) \$ 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-Eared Owl \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization/Business (Sustaining Member) \$ 250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great-Horned Owl \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Lifetime) \$ 750.00 |

Please visit www.caciwc.org and click on "Support CACIWC" for additional information

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Commission/Organization/Individual Name: Ellington Inland Wetland Agency

City/Town: Ellington

Address: 57 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029

Phone: 860-870-3120 email (required): jcolonese@ellington-ct.gov

Chairperson's Name: Ken Braga email: _____

Staff Person's Name: John Colonese Phone/email: 860-870-3120 jcolonese@ellington-ct.gov

NOTE: If membership payment is for two commissions please complete the following.

Name of 2nd Commission: Conservation Commission

Address: 57 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029

Phone: 860-870-3120 email (required): Lhoulihan@Ellington-CT.gov

Chairperson's Name: Rebecca Quarno email: _____

Staff Person's Name: Lisa Houlihan Phone/email: 860-870-3120 Lhoulihan@ellington-ct.gov

Please make checks payable to: CACIWC



September 23, 2020

Dear Wetland Commission:

Enclosed is a Notice document regarding the "Registry of Soil Scientists" brochure published by the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England (SSSSNE). In past years, the brochure has been distributed in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island to state and local agencies and the public at no charge. Due to COVID concerns and our desire to ease the burden of in-person Town Office visits from the public, we have put a stop on printing the updated Registry and are only providing this service online on the Society's webpage:

<http://www.ssssne.org/>

We have enclosed two print versions of the Notice: one is for your Inland Wetlands Commission and one copy is for the town Conservation Commission. We request that you please deliver the second copy to the Conservation Commission. Please feel free to post the Notice or keep as a office reference for public inquiries about the need to hire a Soil Scientist.

Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA: sections 22a-36 through 22a-45 of the General Statutes of Connecticut) defines "wetlands" as land, consisting of soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial, and floodplain by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. Since the Connecticut IWWA uses a soil-based definition of wetlands, a soil scientist is necessary to determine and delineate such wetlands. The IWWA also defines a "soil scientist" as an individual meeting standards set by the federal Office of Personnel Management (IWWA Section 22a-38. Definitions. (5)).

All members listed in The Registry of Soil Scientists of Southern New England (SSSSNE) meet the OPM GS-470 Soil Science Series standards, which mirror SSSSNE membership educational requirements. The Registry includes soil scientists who perform wetland delineations and other environmental evaluations in their jobs as private consultants, educators, or government employees. Member's educational background, employer, and experience are also listed.

The SSSSNE Board of Directors hopes this Registry serves as a valuable resource.

Respectfully,

Jacob Isleib, Secretary
Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England
<http://www.ssssne.org/>

Enclosure: Notice document

Notice:

The Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England Official Registry

will *only* be available online during 2021

(no print copies at the Town Office)

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For the current registry, please visit:

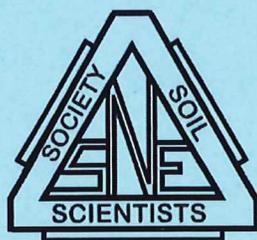
http://nesoil.com/ssssne/SSSSNE_Official_Registry.html

Or use this QR code:



The purpose of the Society Registry is to identify trained and qualified soil scientists, to foster and maintain professional competency, and to protect the public interest in the area of responsible use of soil and land resources.

The Registry of Soil Scientists intends to help in answering private and public demands for professional soil science assistance in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Although persons listed in this Registry meet specific requirements, the Society is not responsible for quality or costs involved in work performance.



www.ssssne.org