



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](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

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

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021, 7:00 PM

IN PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

- PRESENT:** IN PERSON: VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID BIDWELL AND REGULAR MEMBER ROBERT ZIELFELDER. ZOOM ATTENDANCE: CHAIRMAN REBECCA QUARNO, REGULAR MEMBERS SEAN DWYER, JAMES GAGE AND GEORGE NICKERSON.
- ABSENT:** REGULAR MEMBER LAURIE BURSTEIN, AND ALTERNATES ANN HARFORD AND JESSICA FAY.
- STAFF:** IN PERSON: LISA HOULIHAN, TOWN PLANNER AND ACTING RECORDING CLERK.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Quarno called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

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

### III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Plan of Conservation and Development: Chapter 4 – Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation
  - a. List of Priority Parcels for Farmland and Open Space - Draft May 4, 2021

Five properties from the list of priority parcels were reviewed and scored using the Open Space Ranking form. The parcels are generally located off Somers Road near the Shenipsit State Forest. Commissioner Gage explained the state's interest in purchasing some of these parcels ten or fifteen years ago, however the properties were being offered for approximately twice their value and a deal never reached. Commissioner Gage referred to 60 Webster Road and explained GIS information incorrectly lists the parcel as 26 acres, however, it's about 70 acres. He noted the single-family home and 25 acres was separated and sold a couple years ago.

The commission reviewed land in the eastern section of town and identified eight additional parcels to add to the open space list. Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, will update the list and provide GIS printouts for five more parcels for review next month.

2. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program:

Nothing new to report.
3. Report - Open Space Preservation Program: Gage – Lead

The commission reviewed the Open Space brochure. Ms. Houlihan noted it needs to be updated to reflect recent open space acquisitions like the Bellante parcel on Sandy Beach Road and the Wraight parcels on Webster Road. Commissioner Gage confirmed the Bellante property was approximately 35 acres and the Wraight open space purchase totaled 118 acres.

Chairman Quarno suggested the font for the URL address on the last page of the brochure be changed so it's easier to read. Ms. Houlihan will update the brochure.

#### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. FY 20-21 Budget Expenditure Update and approval of donations for FY 19-20 from encumbered funds balance.

Paperwork to execute the donations, the commission approved last month, has been forwarded to the Finance Department.

The commission reviewed the monthly budget expenditure report. There was no discussion.

2. Approval of the September 7, 2021 regular meeting minutes

**MOVED (GAGE) SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 AS WRITTEN.**

3. Correspondence:

- a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee - Monthly agenda/minutes

The commission reviewed the Trails Committee agenda dated October 5, 2021, and the minutes dated September 1, 2021. Commissioner Dwyer asked if the Trails Committee was applying for funding through the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Recreational Trails Program to assist with trail projects in town. Ms. Houlihan referred to the Trails Committee's minutes from September and New Business discussing intent to apply for funding next year to assist with a new project referred to as the Crosstown Trail.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (BIDWELL) SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 8:08 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Houlihan, Acting Recording Clerk