



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 MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

IN PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT
REMOTE ATTENDANCE: ZOOM MEETING
(ATTENDEES BELOW WERE IN PERSON UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

PRESENT: Zoom Attendance: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman David Bidwell,
Regular Members Sean Dwyer, James Gage and Laurie Burstein

ABSENT: Regular Members George Nickerson, Robert Zielfelder and Ann Hartford, and
Alternate Jessica Fay

STAFF: Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner and Nathaniel Trask, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

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

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4 - Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation

a. Review & Update List of Priority Parcels for Farmland and Open Space

Seven properties from the list of priority parcels were reviewed and scored using the Open Space Ranking form. The parcels are located along Webster Road, Sandy Beach Road, Tolland Turnpike and River Road.

2. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program:

There was nothing new to report at this time.

3. Report - Open Space Preservation Program:

Commissioner Bidwell asked if there are plans to put a parking lot at the corner of Stein Road and Ellington Avenue. Valerie Amsel, member of the Ad Hoc Trails Committee, responded that the Ellington Highlands open space property has not been developed with more trails due to discussion of putting a disc golf course in that location by the Ellington Recreation Department. Ms. Amsel indicated that the First Selectman's office oversees the property, and Ms. Houlihan confirmed that it is owned by the town. Ms. Amsel indicated that if there is a disc golf course put on the property, then the Trails Committee would not make any more trails there. Commissioner Bidwell explained his involvement with

constructing trails on Ellington Highlands open space and noted the property is a habitat for an extensive amount of wildlife. Commissioners came to a consensus that they would like the parcel to continue to be used for trails and discourage it from being used for disc golf feeling such activity would negatively disturb wildlife.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 20-21 Budget Expenditure Update

An updated budget expenditure report was reviewed. Ms. Houlihan noted that the part-time budget will start to decrease due to the hiring of a recording clerk.

2. Approval of the November 2, 2021 regular meeting minutes

MOVED (GAGE) SECONDED (QUARNO) TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2021 AS WRITTEN.

3. Election of Officers.

Chairman Position:

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (BURSTEIN) TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER (QUARNO) FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2022.

**COMMISSIONER (QUARNO) ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.
HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED.**

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (GAGE) TO ELECT COMMISSIONER (QUARNO) FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2022.

Vice-Chairman Position:

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (BURSTEIN) TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER (BIDWELL) FOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2022.

**COMMISSIONER (BIDWELL) ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.
HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED.**

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (GAGE) TO ELECT COMMISSIONER (BIDWELL) FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2022.

4. Correspondence:

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

Ms. Amsel provided a report from the trails committee. She indicated that trails are being worked on along Crystal Ridge and that work is estimated to be completed by the spring. Hockanum River Trails are now the responsibility of the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee. Dead trees will soon be removed from the Metcalf Trail. Ms. Houlihan is researching how to get trails in Ellington on the Connecticut Trail Finder site.

- b. CT DEEP Notice of Tentative Decision – Oakridge Dairy, LLC.

A notice of tentative decision was received to issue a state permit and a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit for certain discharges into the waters of Connecticut for Oakridge Dairy, LLC.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

**MOVED (BIDWELL) SECONDED (DWYER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:11 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel Trask, Recording Clerk