



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, AUGUST 9, 2022, 7:00 PM

**IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT
REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING, INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BELOW**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Review of conservation sections from the 2022 Sustainable CT Action Overview Worksheet
2. Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4 - Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation:
3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program:
4. Report - Open Space Preservation Program:

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 21-22 Conservation Advocacy Contributions and FY 22-23 Budget & Expenditure Update.
2. Approval of the June 14, 2022 regular meeting minutes.
3. Correspondence:
 - a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Monthly agenda/minutes.
 - b. Connecticut Farmland Trust - June Update at a Glance

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Next regular meeting to be held on September 13, 2022.

Instructions to attend remotely via Zoom Meeting listed below. The agenda is posted on the Town's webpage (www.ellington-ct.gov) under Agenda & Minutes, Conservation Commission.

Join Zoom Meeting via link:

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87981515152>

Meeting ID: 879 8151 5152

Passcode: 986993

Join Zoom Meeting by phone:

1-646-558-8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 879 8151 5152

Passcode: 986993

2022 Sustainable CT Action Overview Worksheet

The Sustainable CT Action Overview Worksheet may serve as a helpful resource as you track your progress towards certification. **Please visit sustainablect.org for full action write-ups and defer to online versions if there are discrepancies with this Action Overview Worksheet.** Actions for 2022 are broken down by the different ways you can achieve points in each action. Submission requirements and the length of time an action qualifies for eligibility (the "lookback period") are also noted.

Text in orange shows updates to existing actions for the 2022 program, based on your ongoing feedback to help us improve Sustainable CT. If you are recertifying, your submissions must meet the 2022 action requirements, including the timeframe to receive credit for past action.

Note: We have renumbered and reorganized all actions and categories within our program for 2021 and beyond. For assistance with the transition from the 2020 to 2021 program, please see the program translation guide on the second tab of this spreadsheet or email info@sustainablect.org.

COLOR KEY:
Revision to Existing Action
New for 2022
Relocated for 2022
Renamed for 2022

Actions	Sub-Actions	Submission Requirements	Timeframe for Credit	Action Type	Points	COMMENTS
1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts						
1.1 Optimize for Equity	1.1.1 - Complete the Sustainable CT Equity Toolkit in its entirety for any Sustainable CT action of your choice.	Apply the Sustainable CT Equity Toolkit to one or more actions in your submission and submit a narrative that includes the submission requirements outlined on page 13. You must also submit for the new action(s) to which the Toolkit was applied.	Eligible for New Action Credit only	Implementation Project	10 points	
1.2 Participate in Equity Training	1.2.1 Have a cohort from your town of at least three people, including one elected official, one higher level municipal staff member (management and/or director-level), and one resident serving on your sustainability team, collectively attend a series of Sustainable CT-provided trainings on equity.	The name and title of each person who attended the trainings and the dates the trainings were held.	Eligible for New Action Credit only	Events, Meetings, Trainings	10 points	

2. Thriving Local Economies

<p>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</p>	<p>2.1.1 - Create a municipal or regional brownfields inventory. Inventories containing fewer than 5 sites may earn 5 points, those with 5-10 sites may earn 10 points, and those with more than 10 sites may earn 15 points.</p>	<p>The completed brownfield inventory in the format provided in this template or a comparable format, containing the same information.</p>	<p>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</p>	<p>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</p>	<p>5 - 15 points</p>
<p>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</p>	<p>2.1.2 - Create a map of the brownfield sites within your community.</p>	<p>A map of brownfield sites listed in the inventory.</p>	<p>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</p>	<p>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</p>	<p>5 points</p>
<p>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</p>	<p>2.1.3 - For communities with at least 10 brownfield sites, engage the community to prioritize brownfield sites for redevelopment.</p>	<p>The list of priority sites and the dates of the community planning meeting(s) or workshop(s) held.</p>	<p>Eligible for New Action Credit only</p>	<p>Implementation Project</p>	<p>10 points</p>
<p>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</p>	<p>2.1.4 - Prepare a grant proposal for site assessment or clean-up.</p>	<p>A copy of the verification of submission of the grant proposal, and where possible, a copy of the grant proposal.</p>	<p>Eligible for New Action Credit only</p>	<p>Implementation Project</p>	<p>10 points</p>

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.1.1 - Resident & Business Owner Education				Max 20 points
3.1 Provide Watershed Education	3.1.1 a - Sponsor or host a program to educate residents and business owners in your community about the value of watersheds and the importance of protecting and restoring them.	An overview of each of your education programs (5 sentences maximum per program), including target populations (if any) and at least one example from among materials disseminated.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	5 points for one program or 10 points for 2 or more programs (5 or 10 points)
3.1 Provide Watershed Education	3.1.1 b - Implement and maintain a signage program that highlights key watershed issues.	Maps, promotional materials, or photos of educational signage.	Eligible for New Action Credit only	5 points
3.1 Provide Watershed Education	3.1.1 c - Promote and encourage residents and business owners to take a watershed health pledge.	A blank copy of the pledge and at least one example of how the pledge was disseminated	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	5 points
3.1.2 - Community Based Research				
3.1 Provide Watershed Education	3.1.2 - Institute a local monitoring program related to watershed functions or health to be conducted by citizen groups such as local nonprofits or K-12 students.	Description of monitoring program and photos of monitoring in progress.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	5 points
3.2.1 - Inventory				
3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan	3.2.1 a - Conduct a Natural Resources Inventory for a watershed.	Your completed Natural Resources Inventory.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	
Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding Implementation Project Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions				

Actions	Sub-Actions	Submission Requirements	Timeframe for Credit	Action Type	Points	COMMENTS
3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan	3.2.1 b - Map and identify critical watershed resource areas to include, if possible: aquifers, riparian corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, and headwaters.	A map depicting all aquifers, riparian corridors, wetlands, vernal pools and headwaters.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	
		A map depicting land uses and possible locations where pollutant loads may enter the watershed.				
		3.2.1 c - Map land uses and possible locations where pollutant loads may enter the watershed.				
3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan	3.2.2 - Regulation Review and Alignment with Watershed Protection Goals					
3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan	3.2.2 a - Identify your watershed protection goals.	A list of your watershed protection goals. A summary of your regulation review, including a description of your regulations align (or do not) with your watershed protection goals. Copies of all complementary regulations edited or enacted to promote watershed protection goals.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	
	3.2.2 b - Review existing zoning and subdivision regulations for alignment with watershed protection goals.					
3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan	3.2.3 - Action Plan					
3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan	3.2.3 a - Based on your completed inventory and regulation review, develop a list of priority actions and projects, including restoration projects, for reaching watershed protection goals, identifying project need, anticipated project costs, timeline, and work plan.	Copy of action plan and a completed worksheet.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	
3.3 Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration	3.3.1 - Watershed Protection and Restoration					
					Up to 45 points	

Actions	Sub-Actions	Submission Requirements	Timeframe for Credit	Action Type	Points	COMMENTS
3.3 Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration	3.3.1 - Complete a priority project as ideally outlined in your Watershed Action Plan (as part of Sustainable CT action Create a Watershed Management Plan) <i>Invasive species management projects should be included in action 3.10</i>	Documentation of the completed project. (Including justification if not part of your Watershed Action Plan).	Eligible for New Action Credit only	Implementation Project	Up to 30 points, 15 points per project	
3.3 Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration	3.3.2 - Adopt or revise regulations to help protect your watershed, source water, and/or riparian corridors.	A description of your regulations, noting the specific watershed resource they protect and/or threat that they address.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	15 points	
3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan	3.4.1 - Complete an open space inventory. Please complete the attached inventory template.	A copy of your completed inventory. You may also submit a map layer with the attached template included as an attribute table.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	
3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan	3.4.2 - Prioritize resources for protection, i.e. locally-important agricultural soils, farmland, forests, etc.	A completed worksheet 1.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	5 points	
3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan	3.4.3 - Develop an open space plan.	A copy of your open space preservation plan formally adopted by your governing body and a completed worksheet 2.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	
3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan	3.4.4 - Protect Open Space					
3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan	3.4.4 a - Legally protect municipally owned open space. • If not completed in your inventory perform a legal review for municipally owned properties to ensure that they are protected in perpetuity. • Ensure that municipally owned properties are legally protected.	If not in your inventory, include the legal review.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	

Actions	Sub-Actions	Submission Requirements	Timeframe for Credit	Action Type	Points	COMMENTS
3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan	3.4.4 b - Increase preserved open space in your community.	Documentation of open space acquisition.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding	10 points	
3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan	3.4.4 c - Improve open space parcels (i.e., improving habitat, improving access, etc.).	Documentation demonstrating continuous improvement, citing specific projects.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding	5 points	
3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan	3.4.4 d - Establish an open space acquisition fund.	Documentation demonstrating the fund's existence and the amount of funds currently available	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding	10 points	
3.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory	3.5.1 - Develop a natural resources and wildlife (NRW) inventory. Inventories must be town wide and can be completed with help from regional or local partners. Detailed wildlife inventories are not required, but encouraged.	A copy of your NRW inventory. Include all mapping and provide a description of what your inventory includes.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	
3.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory	3.5.2 - Integrate your NRW inventory into municipal planning documents and/or decision-making processes.	A description of how you integrated your natural resources and wildlife inventory into municipal planning documents and decision-making processes.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	
3.6 Manage for Drought and	3.6.1 - Reduce Municipal Water Use & Create a Drought Communications Plan					
3.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use	3.6.1 a - Establish a formal or informal policy to: • Utilize WaterSense labeled toilets, urinals, bathroom faucets, showerheads, and pre-rinse sprayers in all new municipal construction • Replace all toilets, urinals, bathroom faucets, showerheads, and pre-rinse spray valves in municipal buildings with WaterSense labeled equivalents upon their scheduled or unscheduled replacement.	A copy of your formal policy or documentation to prove that your municipality utilizes WaterSense labeled products	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions		

Actions	Sub-Actions	Submission Requirements	Timeframe for Credit	Action Type	Points	COMMENTS
3.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use	3.6.1 b - Develop a drought communications plan to inform residents about voluntary and mandatory drought restrictions. Update your municipal website with links to information about water conservation, drought information and status.	A copy of your Drought Communications Plan and links on municipal website with utility and state drought information	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	
3.6 Manage for Drought and	3.6.2 - Pass a Drought Restriction Ordinance					
3.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use	3.6.2 a - In consultation with your local water utility (if applicable) develop and pass a drought restriction ordinance that integrates your water utility drought plans with the state drought plan.	A copy of the drought restriction ordinance.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions	10 points	
3.7 Provide Education on Responsible Water	3.7.1 - Provide Education on Responsible Water Usage					
3.7 Provide Education on Responsible Water Usage	3.7.1 a - Sponsor or host a responsible water usage education workshop that targets local businesses and/or residents in your community.	A description of your workshop and the date it was held.	Eligible for New Action Credit only	Events, Meetings, Trainings		
3.7 Provide Education on Responsible Water Usage	3.7.1 b - Identify and disseminate responsible water usage educational materials to businesses and/or residents. Consider reaching audiences through multiple communications channels.	An overview of your outreach strategy (5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any) and at least one example from among the materials disseminated.	Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit	Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding	5 points	

<p>3.12.1 - Provide education to residents and local businesses to improve pollinator habitat, reduce the use of insecticides on plants in flower, promote the addition of clover to grass lawns, and encourage the reduction of lawn mowing to once every 2 or 3 weeks.</p>	<p>A description of outreach conducted, methods of engagement, photos of events, groups in attendance, link to space for pollinator education on website.</p>	<p>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</p>	<p>Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding</p>	<p>5 points</p>
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Actions	Sub-Actions	Submission Requirements	Timeframe for Credit	Action Type	Points	COMMENTS
<p>3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways</p>	<p>3.12.1 - Provide education to residents and local businesses to improve pollinator habitat, reduce the use of insecticides on plants in flower, promote the addition of clover to grass lawns, and encourage the reduction of lawn mowing to once every 2 or 3 weeks.</p>	<p>A photo of each pollinator garden, along with associated outreach and promotion materials.</p>	<p>Eligible for New Action Credit only</p>	<p>Implementation Projects</p>	<p>15 points</p>	
<p>3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways</p>	<p>3.12.2 - Create pollinator gardens and upgrade existing gardens to be pollinator friendly and educate the public about the importance of pollinators to society.</p>	<p>A copy of the resolution and a link to minutes from the agenda where it was approved by your municipal governing body.</p>	<p>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</p>	<p>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</p>	<p>20 points</p>	
<p>3.13 Promote Dark Skies</p>	<p>3.13.1 - Conduct public education and outreach related to light pollution and the importance of dark skies for local businesses, institutions, and residences</p>	<p>A copy of your policy or documentation to prove that your municipality utilizes IDA approved lighting products (e.g., procurement contract, a list of installations).</p>	<p>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</p>	<p>Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding</p>	<p>5 points</p>	
<p>3.13 Promote Dark Skies</p>	<p>3.13.2 - Adopt a policy to analyze lighting needs at municipal facilities and reduce unnecessary lighting, and to replace and install municipal outdoor lighting with products that have the IDA Fixture Seal of Approval (or equivalent).</p>	<p>Any relevant section(s) of your zoning regulations. Please identify the section and page number(s) where this requirement is included.</p>	<p>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</p>	<p>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</p>	<p>15 points</p>	
<p>3.13 Promote Dark Skies</p>	<p>3.13.3 - Require all projects requesting land use approvals for new construction or substantial site modifications to have dark sky compliant fixtures on all exterior lighting.</p>		<p>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</p>	<p>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</p>	<p>15 points</p>	

FY 21-22 ENCUMBRANCE LIST

DEPT	AMOUNT	VENDOR	PROJECT
Conservation Commission	400.00	Ellington Printery	Brochures
	500.00	Northern Connecticut Land Trust	Conservation Advocacy Donation
	500.00	Connecticut Land Conservation Council	Conservation Advocacy Donation

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Town Planner Expenditure

Fiscal Year: 2022 - 2023

From Date: 7/1/2022

To Date: 8/31/2022

Account Number	Description	Part Time--Conservation Commission--	Adj Budget	Current	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Bal	%Bud	
1000.02.00270.10.60103	Commission--		\$1,600.00	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$1,470.00	\$0.00	\$1,470.00	91.88%	
Transaction Detail (Maximum)										
Date	Entry	Check No	Deposit No	Invoice No	PO Number	Voucher	Shipment	Memo	Vendor	
7/8/2022	31		0	0	0	0	0	0 Conservation Comm-Part Time		
1000.02.00270.20.60221	Advertising Printing--Conservation Commission--		\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	100.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60222	Dues & Subscriptions--Conservation Commission--		\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$1,350.00	100.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60223	Travel--Conservation Commission--		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60234	Professional Development--Conservation Commission		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60250	Contracted Services--Conservation Commission--		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60254	St of CT Surcharges--Conservation Commission--		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	
1000.02.00270.20.60341	Office Supplies--Conservation Commission--		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	
1000.02.00270.30.60341	Office Supplies--Conservation Commission--		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	
Department: Conservation Commission - 00270										
			\$3,350.00	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$3,220.00	\$0.00	\$3,220.00	96.12%	

Detail Total:



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 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: In Person: Alternate Ann Harford; Remote Attendance: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Regular Members George Nickerson, James Gage, Robert Zielfelder and Laurie Burstein (arrived at 7:15)

ABSENT: Vice Chairman David Bidwell, Regular Member Sean Dwyer, and Alternate Jessica Fay

STAFF: Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner (In Person) and Nathaniel Trask, Recording Clerk (Remote)

OTHERS

PRESENT: Valerie Amsel, Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee Liaison (In Person)

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

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

Ms. Houlihan said she attended the Board of Selectmen's Recognition Program for Elected and Appointed Officials Meeting. The Board wanted to thank Chairman Quarno for her 15 years of service on the Conservation Commission as well as Ms. Amsel for her five years of service serving on the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee.

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

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

Eight letters were mailed on June 13, 2022, to property owners on Green Road. Some property owners own multiple parcels on Green Road. The letter states that Ms. Houlihan is writing to them on behalf of the Conservation Commission, the town's lead advocacy group for open-space and farmland preservation and that their property is located within the western farm belt. The letter also states that this is an area of significant open-space preservation interest and that there are programs in place to compensate landowners for land purchase or sale of development rights. The letter directs the landowners to contact Ms. Houlihan on behalf of the Conservation Commission if they are interested in preserving their land.

Ms. Houlihan said the letter was mailed later than originally planned, but Chairman Quarno said there is no real urgency involved in this matter. Ms. Houlihan said there was conversation at the Shared Services Commission meeting to establish a committee in the town to begin the process of getting Ellington to be certified as a Sustainable Connecticut town. She hopes the committee is established soon so Ellington can receive assistance from fellows working with the University of Connecticut through the Capitol Region Council of Governments to have them come in and look at what the town has accomplished already and seek their guidance.

Chairman Quarno asked what was driving the decision to establish a separate committee. Ms. Houlihan said there was a presentation by leaders from the Sustainable Connecticut program at the Shared Services Commission meeting.

2. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program:

In January, Ms. Houlihan contacted the Connecticut Department of Agriculture about the status of the closing for the second farm preservation program for Oakridge Dairy. She sent a follow-up email two weeks ago but has not received a response yet. The property has not yet been closed on. Once the property is closed on, Ms. Houlihan will send a letter to other farmland owners in town. Chairman Quarno said she would like the letter to include testimonials from others that preserved their land for what the program has done for them.

Chairman Quarno asked Ms. Houlihan if anybody has reached out or visited the Planning Department to ask questions or inquire about the Working Farmland Preservation Program. She answered that it has generally been quiet.

3. Report - Open Space Preservation Program:

Ms. Houlihan said the Green Road properties qualify for the Open Space Program. Commissioner Nickerson asked if there had been any contact with Scott Brady. Ms. Houlihan explained recent outreach to him and said that the purchase price has not decreased and that the matter is still status-quo.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 21-22 Budget & Expenditure Update

The budget for the Economic Development Commission was mistakenly sent to the Conservation Commission members instead of their own budget ahead of this month's meeting, so a detailed budget document was not available to the members.

Ms. Houlihan indicated that there were no expenditures between last month and this month for the commission.

2. Approval of the April 12, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

3. Correspondence:

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

Ms. Amsel, the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee liaison, addressed the commission. She said the committee has replaced one bridge, built an additional one and fixed a third at the Stein open space property. There is one more bridge remaining. Commissioner Bidwell and First Selectman Spielman have been helping at the property. On Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 30 people came to the Hockanum River trails, including 22 representatives from Key Bank and a few members of the community. The people were divided into three groups who spread mulch, picked up trash and debris on the trails and worked on a bridge. Mulch is also being spread at the Batz Trails. Ms. Amsel noted that a local Boy Scout is working on the Crystal Ridge property for their Eagle Scout project. The scout will be blazing a trail and building a bench on the property.

Commissioner Harford said that she noticed that signs were installed at the Hockanum River and Batz trails warning people to not eat the fish after discussions at last month's meeting.

Ms. Houlihan said Ken Radziwon, the town's new Public Works Director, served on the trails committee prior to town employment and is finishing updates to the trail maps. Once the maps are finished, Ms. Houlihan will give the maps to the town's GIS consultant and have them linked to the trails layer on the town's GIS map. This will allow people to open the map and hover over trails and a PDF document will pop up with a map of the trail that indicates amenities like parking, benches, bridges, and emergency locator signs.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

**MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (NICKERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:30 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel Trask, Recording Clerk



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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

CHAIRMAN
LINDA ANDERSON

VICE CHAIRMAN
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM

SECRETARY
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK

VALERIE AMSEL
PAM MCCORMICK
JUDI MANFRE
ANN MCLAUGHLIN
KEN RADZIWON
LARRISSA BURKE

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2022
Town Hall Annex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Ann McLaughlin, Valerie Amsel, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Jude Manfre, Ken Radziwon, Pam McCormick

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cynthia van Zelm, Larrissa Burke

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Tom Palshaw

- I. **Call to Order:** Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.
- II. **Citizens' Forum:** No citizens wished to be heard.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. May 4, 2022

Ms. McLaughlin noted the following correction needing to be made: the Committee has received a donation of \$500 from the Conservation Commission. This will go towards money the Committee hoped to raise for the Town.

MOVED (MCLAUGHLIN), SECONDED (WAMBOLT-GULICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AS CORRECTED.

IV. **Old Business**

A. Hockanum River Association Report

Mr. Palshaw shared an update. They are currently working on Windermere Trail, doing upkeep such as mowing and tackling knotweed specifically. The signpost behind The Gold & Diamond Exchange has been damaged. There are blockages in the river and trash to be picked up, but mowing is the priority.

There is a chip delivery expected for Friday; two loads of chips were asked for to use on the June 7th Trail Clean Up Day. The Association will bring three wheelbarrows to help.

Ms. Anderson said that the Committee is hoping to have volunteers help with the mulching, and another crew of volunteers to help with basic clean up tasks.

Mr. Palshaw said that members of the Association will be there doing mowing and cutting. They will also be available to help direct the mulching. He added that there is bridge work to be done as well, and suggested that, if possible, they can have volunteers help with the spur bridge on the 7th. Ms. McCormick noted that the YMCA has shut down the bridge on their property by the trail. Ms. Amsel clarified the scope of the work to be done, suggesting that they focus on creating a bridge extension and work on

Swamp Bridge at Windermere. Mr. Palshaw agreed that it will depend on volunteers available. The primary focus is the chips, and whatever is left undone, they will help with later.

The Committee and Mr. Palshaw clarified the organization of equipment required for the planned work.

B. New Maps Update

Ms. Anderson took the Committee through changes as follows:

On Batz, Ms. McCormick said to add the parking symbol.

At Kimball, add a bridge by K7, twin bridges, or clarify that there are two bridges. Move the parking closer to the kiosk. A bridge is on the wrong side. At K5 move the bench symbol closer to the actual location. Include an updated trail description which includes the extensions.

At Metcalf, no bridges or anything, just a stone foundation. Adjust peach trail and other colors on the trail (the green section should be blue, small section is red). Mr. Radziwon added that there are no emergency markers yet, because the trail is currently closed.

At Windermere, the suspension bridge should have its own symbol.

At West Road & Balanced Boulder Trail, create these maps as they currently are. Mr. Radziwon clarified the color of the trails, which are blue and orange.

At Franklin Street Trail, this hasn't been included as it is not Town property, all private property.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will help with the maps.

C. Crystal Ridge Update

Eagle Scout McTighe is currently working on the paperwork required for the project and he will be funding the project. He hopes to complete the project prior to graduating.

D. Stein Update

The Committee is officially good to go on this property. The parking area will need guardrails, which are on back-order. The Town Engineer is looking into expanding the parking area to accommodate disc golf.

Mr. Dinnie asked for clarification on the official name of the trail; Ms. Amsel answered that it is technically the Ellington Highlands Trail, which is what it will be known as moving forward.

E. Conservation Commission Report – Val Amsel: There was nothing to report.

F. Trail of Treats Update: There was nothing to report.

G. Ellington Beekeeper Update

Ms. Anderson relayed that they are concerned about the invasive species and the danger they post to native bees.

H. June 7th Cleanup Event

This event will be focused on cleaning up the Windermere/Hockanum River Trail.

V. New Business

A. Disc Golf

This still needs to go through a hearing of the Planning and Zoning Commission. This may be planned for the Ellington Highlands property, but other properties may be pursued for purchase if that isn't a good fit.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Treasurer

Ms. McLaughlin shared that there is about \$2,200 left in the budget. Ms. Anderson stated that there will be more bills for mulch purposes and the remaining funding is likely closer to \$1,800. The Committee is still looking into trail cams, emergency signs, and purchasing more wood for upcoming projects.

Ms. Amsel added that there are other possible bridge and kiosk projects coming up, as well as the possible opportunity to purchase Trex from Kelly Fradet at a reduced price. Ms. Anderson suggested that the Committee budget for at least \$1,000 in building supplies for upcoming projects.

B. Planning & Development

Ms. Anderson shared that trail development will continue as discussed, and the Committee will be looking to begin the blazing of the Crystal Ridge Trail.

C. Maintenance

1. Stein

Ms. Amsel shared that a bridge at Ellington Highlands has been replaced using supplies that had been previously purchased and stored at Public Works. Another bridge repair is planned for the near future. A small neighborhood bridge was repaired. A 16-foot boardwalk bridge still needs to be done, and will require more community help.

Ms. Amsel has a backpack blower and a trimmer that she is happy to use for maintenance of the trails.

2. Windermere

Nothing has been done yet; the Committee will build on what is accomplished at the June 7th event with the support of volunteers.

3. Batz – Mulch

Ms. Anderson shared that she and others did some maintenance at Batz, which included spreading 50 bags of mulch, and trimming. More mulch, likely 30 bags, will also be added in the future. Ms. Amsel mentioned the benefit of having signs on both sides of the trail.

D. Community Outreach

1. Trails Day

Ms. Anderson shared that engagement so far is small, but expects more with increased advertisement.

2. Printing

Ms. Anderson shared that the Committee needs weather-resistant tree signs, as well as a “no-mowing” sign for the front field at Batz.

3. Bird Watching

Ms. Anderson shared that there will be a list of birds in the newsletter.

4. Drone Update – There was no update.

5. T-Shirts

Sizes for the new members are needed by the next meeting.


6. Calendar of Events

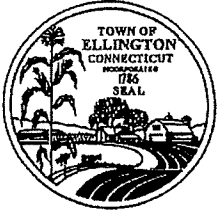
Ms. Anderson shared an update on upcoming events, including a flyer for Jane Seymour. Volunteers are needed for the Farmers’ Market. There is a new addition of a fungi-foraging event, and hopefully Ms. Anamani can do another bird walk in September.

VII. Adjournment

MOVED (MCCORMICK), SECONDED (MCLAUGHLIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:28 PM.

Prepared by Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Secretary; submitted by


Julia Connor



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

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

CHAIRMAN
LINDA ANDERSON

VICE CHAIRMAN
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM

SECRETARY
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK

VALERIE AMSEL
PAM MCCORMICK
JUDI MANFRE
ANN MCLAUGHLIN
KEN RADZIWON
LARRISSA BURKE

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2022
Town Hall Annex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Cynthia van Zelm, Valerie Amsel, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Pam McCormick

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann McLaughlin, Ken Radziwon, Judi Manfre, Larrissa Burke

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palshaw

I. Call to Order: Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

II. Citizens' Forum: No citizens wished to be heard.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. June 1, 2022

There was one correction of the spelling of a Committee member's name.

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AS CORRECTED.

IV. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Association Report

Mr. Palshaw shared an update. They are heavily into mowing season and are doing well but things are moving fast. DEEP recommends that trees be left in the river to help with fish and other life in the river. A sign has been righted by The Gold & Diamond Exchange. Another sign by the cornfields needs to be fixed. Officials in Vernon/Bolton want to add emergency signs to their portion of the trails.

Ms. Anderson suggested that the Committee do a story about it in a local paper to highlight the system. Mr. Palshaw added that Emergency Services also likes the new maps.

B. New Maps Update

Ms. Anderson shared that the new maps are projected to be ready by September or October, which will not be in time for inclusion in this year's Annual Report.

C. Crystal Ridge Update

There has been no new update from the Eagle Scout interested in helping with the project; this will be revisited in the fall.

D. Ellington Highlands Update

Ms. Anderson shared an update. Disc golf is going forward through the normal approval channels. Ms. Anderson shared that she will walk the trail with Dustin and Ken to see what their plan is.

Ms. Amsel shared that she doesn't expect there will be a lot of support from the community for adding this feature.

Ms. Anderson stated that they are planning for 9 disc golf holes. Mr. Palshaw clarified about a possible emergency service entrance that appears to be private property. Ms. Anderson clarified that there is a strip of Town property that is in between the two private properties.

This trail will not be ready to open in until at least the fall, as parking needs to be addressed. Parking plans include diagonal parking for more space, a guard rail, and some cement bumpers.

E. Conservation Commission Report – Val Amsel

Ms. Amsel shared that letters have been sent out to the Green Road properties; this land qualifies as open space.

Ms. Anderson celebrated Ms. Amsel, Ms. van Zelm, and Ms. McCormick for their five years of service as members of the Ellington Trails Committee.

F. Trail of Treats Update

Ms. Anderson shared that the event will be on October 24th, with the 25th as a rain date. The Lions Club will be organizing it through Dianne Bouchard. The field is open and the lights will be set; Dustin will help for the event and will check with Ken about adding additional lights, or Erin if needed. Extra lighting will not be needed in the future.

Parking is limited, due to space, and fencing may need to be opened up to create better flow. No banner will be put out, so as to protect the flow of traffic.

Ms. Amsel asked how it will be advertised. Ms. Anderson clarified that it will be on the Committee's Facebook page, and advertised through The Lions Club. The Committee agreed that advertising on Facebook is beneficial.

The Resident State Troopers Office would like to send five officers and a supervisor. The cost is \$35 per hour per officer, and the time is slotted from 5 pm until 7:30 pm. Officers will be on duty from 4 pm until 8:40 pm. The Committee will be splitting the cost with the Lions. Officers will be billed through the Committee, decor will be handled by the Lions Club. Ms. Van Zelm clarified that the Lions Club recognizes that there will be a rate difference for police officers, for this event, going forward, as they will be billed at a higher rate than the Trails Committee. Ms. Anderson said that they are aware of this.

The donation for vendors will be raised from \$25 to \$30; the Committee will need help setting up for vendors. Ms. Van Zelm suggested checking with new businesses and political candidates to see if they are interested in sponsoring, though the Committee clarified that this is not a political event.

Set-up is planned for the Sunday prior, and Ms. Anderson is planning to reach out to Troop 96 to see if they are interested in helping with the operation of the event.

V. New Business

A. Mowing at Batz

A large strip was mowed by the flora. Bruce was there and was able to stop it. The Committee is planning to sit down with Ken and establish a schedule to mow 1/3 of the fields, on a rotating basis. This will help protect wildlife. The Committee will be asking for later mowing, in the fall/winter.

TruGreen has been putting down an herbicide that kills mugwort, as mugwort has been an issue. It is not harmful to wildlife and is recommended by DEEP.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Treasurer

Ms. Anderson shared that the Committee came in under budget by about \$150, and bought discounted boards from Kelly-Fradet. \$8,000 has been allocated for Trails Committee funding for this upcoming year. There was conversation about a past donation that needs to be removed from the Committee's budget lines, but it should not impact any funding received this year. A form must be filled out in January to remove it from the budget lines.

Ms. McLaughlin is likely leaving the Committee in August, so the Committee will be in search of a new treasurer, if any member is interested in taking over the role.

B. Planning & Development

There were no further updates.

C. Maintenance

1. Kimball

Steps will need to be added and stabilized, likely in the fall. Brush cutting will be needed soon.

2. Batz

The pond needs some work; a turtle was spotted recently!

3. Ellington Highlands

Three bridges have been dealt with; two were fixed, one is new.

D. Community Outreach

1. Trails Day

There was good engagement, and seven people attended.

2. Key Bank/Jaime Foster

Over 30 people were in attendance, including folks from Key Bank, the Committee, and Representative Foster. Mulch was put down, a rotted area on a bridge was replaced, and litter was picked up. This was an enjoyable event and hopefully it can happen again next year.

3. Balanced Boulder Walk

This was a beautiful morning for a walk and took place on Father's Day; there were seven attendees.

4. Bird Watching – Jane Seymour

11 people were in attendance for the bird walking with Jane. Very passionate bird watchers participated. Jane will do more general walks in the future. Denise will be doing the more focused ones. There was also a very passionate young boy in attendance who is hopeful to help out in future, kid-centered events.

5. Hall Memorial Library Kit Day

Kit day was very popular; many people were there to explore and check out the available kits.

6. Farmers' Market – July 9th

Ms. Anderson clarified the coverage for the Farmers' Market table.

7. Drone Update

There was no update at this time.

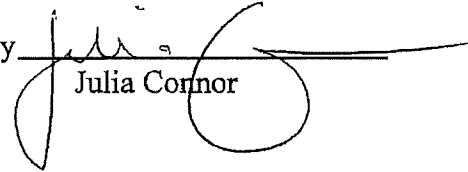
8. Astronomy Event

The event will be at the Pinney Street fields from 7:30 until 10:00 pm on August 2nd, with the 3rd as a rain date. Ms. Anderson is hoping that members of the Committee can be in attendance.

VII. Adjournment

MOVED (MCCORMICK), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:43 PM.

Prepared by Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Secretary; submitted by


Julia Connor



JUNE Update at a Glance

1. **We are hiring!** [Currently looking for a part time donor relations assistant - a part-time administrative job helping conserve farmland in CT. Full position listing and how to apply at this link.](#)
2. **Save The Dates!** Special events coming up for CFT.
3. **Insider Updates** - *your gifts* are helping us work with many farms, here are a few in particular - thank you!
4. **Funding for Farmers** - check out the links in the section below for opportunities from the USDA Urban Agriculture
5. **Unsung Heroes** - people who deserve wider recognition.
6. [Where to get CT Food this summer](#) - CTNOFA's easy to use guide and interactive map for 2022.
7. **CFT Webinars** - [archives edition.](#)

Yours in health and harvest,
Kimball Cartwright

SAVE THE DATES!



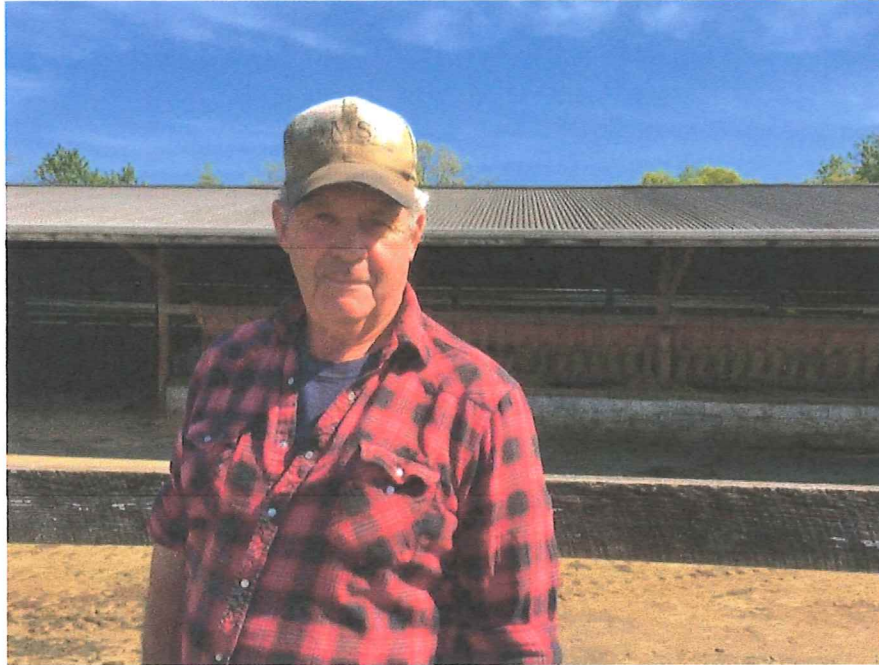
1. July 29 - August 15 = CFT's first "Foraging for CT Food and Farms" Scavenger Hunt opens. *Designed especially to be fun, delicious, creative, and educational for families with young children ages 5 to 12.* Registration details coming next week.
2. *20th anniversary celebration* of Connecticut Farmland Trust's founding coming up at Castle Hill Farm on Sunday, September 11th. Bring an appetite for tasty food and a passion to protect farms. Registration details in two weeks!

INSIDER UPDATE - Fort Hill Farm in Thompson



A happy dog with some happy cows! This pup's name is Delilah. She and her cow companions live at Fort Hill Farms in Thompson, CT. This large dairy is in the process of being preserved by CFT and our partners at CT Dept. of Ag and USDA-NRCS. A member of The Farmer's Cow and Cabot dairy co-ops, Fort Hill is also home to a popular corn maze and personalized nature walks. Next time you stop by for a visit, tell Delilah and her humans "thanks" for preserving their beautiful farm!

INSIDER UPDATE - Gallup Farm in Voluntown



Byron Gallup is the owner of Gallup Farm, a 500-acre dairy farm in Voluntown, CT that is known for its wholesale milk. CFT is currently partnering with the CT Department of Agriculture to protect the 500-acre farm in 4 pieces to ensure it is affordable for the next generation of farmers--so far 300 of the 500 total acres have been protected through this partnership. Byron is the last of 13 generations of his family to farm this land. He promised his late father the farm would stay in agriculture after the land is sold out of the family. Byron is honoring his father's wish by permanently protecting the farm so it will always be available for future generations of farmers.

FUNDING FOR FARMERS

- USDA announced \$43M in two streams of national funding for urban agriculture collaborative projects. [Here is the link to their press release which contains individual links to their grants.gov full descriptions:](#) 1) Composting and Food Waste Reduction cooperative agreements (9/1/22 deadline); and 2) Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (8/2/22 deadline).
- [CT Women's Business Development Council Equity Match Grant Program.](#) Up to \$10,000 available. July 3 deadline

UNSUNG HEROES

A few people deserving a hearty thank you from CFT this June:

Gwen Marrion with the Bolton Land Trust - for helping us with two projects in the town of Bolton that may be complete before 2022 ends! We are fortunate to have her as a passionate and effective advocate for helping us conserve farms for farming.

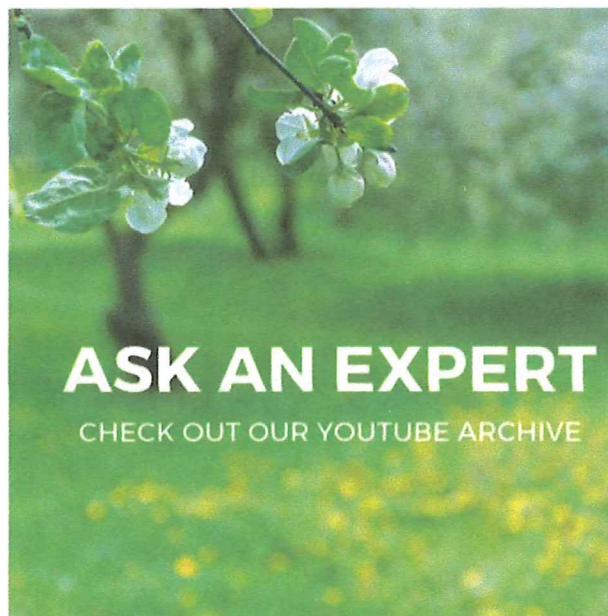


Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner with the Town of Ellington - for being a farmland preservation advocate in Ellington and contributing to the preservation of Oakridge Dairy.

Amy Paterson of the CT Land Conservation Council - for giving us great advice on a variety of topics ranging from property taxes to clean water funding and everything in between. (Amy could be on this list every month of the year - thank you!)

Adam Bishop and Maggie Donin (Maine Farmland Trust and Vermont Land Trust respectively) - for giving CFT inspirational and practical advice on how to craft a "Buy/Protect/Sell" program designed to make us even more nimble at conserving farmland in CT.

SPRING WEBINAR SERIES - YOUTUBE EDITION



If you couldn't catch the webinars live, you can still watch them online at your convenience on our Youtube channel at this link. We've archived webinars from 2021 too!

MAKE A GIFT TO CFT

You can help CFT grow to protect more farmland, by donating today. Click on the button above and make a gift of any size. *We appreciate you!*

ctfarmland.org
[860-247-0202]



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