CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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:
   a. Ellington Farm Day, September 17, 2022, 10am-3pm, Event flyer

4. Report - Open Space Preservation Program:

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 22-23 Budget & Expenditure Update.

2. Approval of the August 9, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

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

V. ADJOURNMENT:

  Next regular meeting to be held on October 11, 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/88578122632
Meeting ID: 885 7812 2632
Passcode: 930076

Join Zoom Meeting by phone:
1-646-558-8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 885 7812 2632
Passcode: 930076

COMMISSIONERS: TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING QUORUMS REQUIRED TO CONDUCT MEETINGS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND A SCHEDULED MEETING.
# 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Sub-Actions</th>
<th>Submission Requirements</th>
<th>Timeframe for Credit</th>
<th>Action Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Thriving Local Economies</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The completed brownfield inventory in the format provided in this template or a comparable format, containing the same information.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</td>
<td>5 - 15 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</td>
<td>2.1.2 - Create a map of the brownfield sites within your community.</td>
<td>A map of brownfield sites listed in the inventory.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</td>
<td>2.1.3 - For communities with at least 10 brownfield sites, engage the community to prioritize brownfield sites for redevelopment.</td>
<td>The list of priority sites and the dates of the community planning meeting(s) or workshop(s) held.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit only</td>
<td>Implementation Project</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</td>
<td>2.1.4 - Prepare a grant proposal for site assessment or clean-up.</td>
<td>A copy of the verification of submission of the grant proposal, and where possible, a copy of the grant proposal.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit only</td>
<td>Implementation Project</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</td>
<td>2.1.5 - Collect additional information for one or more priority sites. Have a licensed environmental professional conduct a Phase I or Phase II environmental assessment, create a remedial action plan, market analysis report, land use analysis or study, end usage report and/or a remediation report.</td>
<td>The assessments, plans and/or reports outlined above for which points are being sought for one or more priority sites, ideally incorporating photographs.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit only</td>
<td>Implementation Project</td>
<td>10 points per assessment; up to 20 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</td>
<td>2.1.6 - Hold a process of public engagement to identify potential reuse options that are connected to broader community vision and revitalization priorities.</td>
<td>A list of reuse options and the dates of any community planning events.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit only</td>
<td>Implementation Project</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</td>
<td>2.1.7 - Communicate and actively market brownfield redevelopment opportunities.</td>
<td>Screenshots of any redevelopment opportunities for your municipality’s brownfield site(s) posted online; printed materials used to market them.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites</td>
<td>2.1.8 - Remediate a brownfield site and redevelop the site for housing, recreation, commercial development, government, or other productive uses.</td>
<td>A brief summary of project; discussion of your municipality’s role; at least one photograph of the redeveloped site.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit only</td>
<td>Implementation Project</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.1 Provide Watershed Education</th>
<th>3.1.1 - Resident &amp; Business Owner Education</th>
<th>Max 20 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Provide Watershed Education</td>
<td>3.1.1 b - Implement and maintain a signage program that highlights key watershed issues.</td>
<td>Maps, promotional materials, or photos of educational signage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Provide Watershed Education</td>
<td>3.1.1 c - Promote and encourage residents and business owners to take a watershed health pledge.</td>
<td>A blank copy of the pledge and at least one example of how the pledge was disseminated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions</td>
<td>Sub-Actions</td>
<td>Submission Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.1 Provide Watershed Education</td>
<td>3.1.2 - Community Based Research</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</td>
<td>3.2.1 - Inventory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</td>
<td>3.2.1 a - Conduct a Natural Resources Inventory for a watershed.</td>
<td>Your completed Natural Resources Inventory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</td>
<td>3.2.1 b - Map and identify critical watershed resource areas to include, if possible: aquifers, riparian corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, and headwaters.</td>
<td>A map depicting all aquifers, riparian corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, and headwaters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</td>
<td>3.2.1 c - Map land uses and possible locations where pollutant loads may enter the watershed.</td>
<td>A map depicting land uses and possible locations where pollutant loads may enter the watershed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</td>
<td>3.2.2 - Regulation Review and Alignment with Watershed Protection Goals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</td>
<td>3.2.2 a - Identify your watershed protection goals.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</td>
<td>3.2.2 b - Review existing zoning and subdivision regulations for alignment with watershed protection goals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</td>
<td>3.2.3 - Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions</td>
<td>Sub-Actions</td>
<td>Submission Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Copy of action plan and a completed worksheet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration</td>
<td>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) Invasive species management projects should be included in action 3.10</td>
<td>Documentation of the completed project. (including justification if not part of your Watershed Action Plan).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration</td>
<td>3.3.2 - Adopt or revise regulations to help protect your watershed, source water, and/or riparian corridors.</td>
<td>A description of your regulations, noting the specific watershed resource they protect and/or threat that they address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan</td>
<td>3.4.1 - Complete an open space inventory. Please complete the attached inventory template.</td>
<td>A copy of your completed inventory. You may also submit a map layer with the attached template included as an attribute table.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan</td>
<td>3.4.2 - Prioritize resources for protection, i.e. locally-important agricultural soils, farmland, forests, etc.</td>
<td>A completed worksheet 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan</td>
<td>3.4.3 - Develop an open space plan.</td>
<td>A copy of your open space preservation plan formally adopted by your governing body and a completed worksheet 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan</td>
<td>3.4.4 - Protect Open Space</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions</td>
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<td>Submission Requirements</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 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      |          |
|        | 3.4.4 b - Increase preserved open space in your community.                  | Documentation of open space acquisition.                                                | Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit | Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding | 10      |          |
| 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 | Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding | 5       |          |
| 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 | Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding | 10      |          |
| 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      |          |
| 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      |          |

3.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use

3.6.1 - Reduce Municipal Water Use & Create a Drought Communications Plan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>A copy of your formal policy or documentation to prove that your municipality utilizes WaterSense labeled products</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assesment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>A copy of your Drought Communications Plan and links on municipal website with utility and state drought information</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>A copy of the drought restriction ordinance.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7 Provide Education on Responsible Water Usage</td>
<td>3.7.1 a - Sponsor or host a responsible water usage education workshop that targets local businesses and/or residents in your community.</td>
<td>A description of your workshop and the date it was held.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit only</td>
<td>Events, Meetings, Trainings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.7 Provide Education on Responsible Water Usage</td>
<td>3.7.1 b - Identify and disseminate educational materials to businesses and/or residents. Consider reaching audiences through multiple communications channels.</td>
<td>An overview of your outreach strategy (5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any) and at least one example from among the materials disseminated.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>A description of outreach conducted, methods of engagement, photos of events, groups in attendance, link to space for pollinator education on website.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>A photo of each pollinator garden, along with associated outreach and promotion materials.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit only</td>
<td>Implementation Projects</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways</td>
<td>3.12.3 - Pass a Pollinator Friendly Community resolution.</td>
<td>A copy of the resolution and a link to minutes from the agenda where it was approved by your municipal governing body.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.3 Develop Agricultural-Friendly Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Sub-Actions</th>
<th>Submission Requirements</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Develop Agricultural-Friendly Practices</td>
<td>5.3.1 - Adopt land use policies and regulations that promote and support active agricultural uses.</td>
<td>A copy of the policy formally adopted by your governing body or a copy of the relevant section(s) of your zoning regulations.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Develop Agricultural-Friendly Practices</td>
<td>5.3.2 - Allow active agricultural use of municipal land or provide outreach on CT Farmlink (linking available municipal or private land to farmers looking for land to farm)</td>
<td>Documentation showing active agricultural use of at least one municipal parcel; or documentation of outreach provided on CT Farmlink.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Develop Agricultural-Friendly Practices</td>
<td>5.3.3 - Develop a Transfer or Purchase of Development Rights program.</td>
<td>A description of your Transfer or Purchase of Development Rights program.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Develop Agricultural-Friendly Practices</td>
<td>5.3.4 - Hold a farmer forum to identify critical needs or issues for agriculture in municipality.</td>
<td>The date of the farmer forum and at least one additional piece of documentation related to the forum.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit only</td>
<td>Events, Meetings, Trainings</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

_The more you do, the more points you earn, (up to 35)._ Up to 35 points
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Develop Agricultural-Friendly Practices</td>
<td>5.3.5 - Establish a farmland acquisition fund.</td>
<td>Documentation establishing the fund, noting the dollar amount available in fund.</td>
<td>Eligible for New Action Credit and Rolling Credit</td>
<td>Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participants

Cohen Chrysanthemums-112 West Rd
Dzen Garden Market-187 Windsorville Rd
Ellington Farmers Market-Arbor Park, Main St (9am-noon)
Ellington Hall Memorial Library-93 Main St
Ellington Historical Society-70 Main St
Farm Fresh-31 Frog Hollow Rd
Hillside Stables-287 Jobs Hill Rd
Johnny Appleseed-185 West Rd
Oakridge Dairy and The Modern Milkman-11 Jobs Hill Rd
Rothe Veggie Stand-224 Windsorville Rd
SJ Riding Camp-130 Old Sandy Beach Rd
Sunset Valley Farm-55 Kreyssig Rd
Start your day off with a visit to the Ellington Farmers' Market in Arbor Park (9AM to 12PM), then stroll down to the Nellie McKnight Museum to learn the history of Ellington farming at the Ellington Historical Society’s Farm Exhibit. Next stop at the Hall Memorial Library where you can watch live chicks hatch and kids can create a chicken-themed craft. You can take a cruise around town and visit one or more of the participating farms like Farm Fresh and watch free-range chickens roam, learn about their hydroponic farming and buy some farm-fresh eggs and lettuce. Stop by Oakridge Dairy and the Modern Milkman and see how a modern-day dairy farm operates, or visit Sunset Valley Farms and view the grass-fed beef, touch a tractor and feed a farm pig. Visit Hillside Stable for a pony ride and learn about riding lessons and boarding opportunities or SJ Riding Camp to visit their summer camp facilities. Be sure to visit the quaint farm store at Johnny Appleseed's Farm for fresh picked apples or pick your own, Rothe vegetable stand for a variety of veggies and Cohen Farm for chrysanthemums. Stop at Dzen Garden Market for farm-fresh products and take advantage of their two for one small ice cream cone offer (please bring this article with you when visiting Dzens for ice cream on 9/17/2022) The location of all participates are listed on the back page.
## Town Planner Expenditure

**TOWN OF ELLINGTON**

**Fiscal Year: 2022 - 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Adj. Budget</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Encumbrance</th>
<th>Budget Bal</th>
<th>%Bud</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000.02.00270.10.00103</td>
<td>Part Time—Conservation Commission—</td>
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### Transaction Detail (Maximum)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Check No</th>
<th>Deposit No</th>
<th>Invoice No</th>
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<th>Voucher</th>
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**Detail Total:** $400.00

### Department: Conservation Commission - 00270

- Advertising Printing—Conservation Commission—: $400.00
- Dues & Subscriptions—Conservation Commission—: $1,350.00
- Travel—Conservation Commission—: $0.00
- Professional Development—Conservation Commission: $0.00
- Contracted Services—Conservation Commission—: $0.00
- St of CT EUCs—Conservation Commission—: $0.00
- Office Supplies—Conservation Commission—: $0.00
- Office Supplies—Conservation Commission—: $0.00

**Department Budget Bal:** $3,090.00 (92.34%)
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 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: Vice Chairman David Bidwell and Alternate Ann Harford; Remote Attendance: Regular Members George Nickerson, James Gage and Robert Ziefelder

ABSENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Regular Members Sean Dwyer and Laurie Burstein, and Alternate Jessica Fay

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Valerie Amsel, Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman David Bidwell called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM.

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

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:
1. Review of conservation sections from the 2022 Sustainable CT Action Overview Worksheet

Ms. Houlihan said she mentioned at last month’s meeting that some conversation came out of the Shared Services Committee about Sustainable Connecticut. The Conservation Commission processed some of the action items related to this in the past. Ms. Houlihan said she anticipates an internal group of department heads will be established soon so work can continue in this area. Many disciplines must have sustainable action for the town to achieve Sustainable Connecticut certification. Ms. Houlihan compiled a list of sustainable action items for the commission to work on.

In response to Commissioner Harford, Ms. Houlihan noted that a brownfield is land that has formerly been developed and has the potential of being contaminated. Ms. Houlihan noted the commission discussed watershed conservation education at past events and town newsletters. She said the commission might consider refreshing the open space plan, but the recently adopted natural resource and wildlife inventory should qualify for credit. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection maintains a list of brownfields throughout the state, however Ellington does not have many. Brownfields are not currently identified on MapGeo.
To achieve Sustainable Connecticut certification, the town must complete at least one action item that qualifies for points in each of the 13 required categories, and a minimum of 200 points is required to be eligible to apply. There are two levels of certification: silver and bronze. Ms. Houlihan said there might be a gold status introduced at some point as well. Before the status levels were introduced, towns simply received certification if they applied and met the required criteria. Vice Chairman Bidwell asked if the town had reached silver status. Ms. Houlihan said the town has never applied for certification through Sustainable Connecticut. The Conservation Commission, the Economic Development Commission, and the Public Works Department have all completed some action items.

Ms. Houlihan mentioned the potential for the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee and the Conservation Commission to work together to fulfill some of the criteria for certification for pollinator pathways. Vice Chairman Bidwell asked if the wildlife inventory that a student did a few years ago would earn some points. Ms. Houlihan said it might get some points.

Commissioner Nickerson asked Commissioner Harford if adding milkweed to the areas where there is pollen-producing vegetation would be worthwhile. Commissioner Harford said it would be. Some bulbs were planted near the kiosk on Windermere Avenue this past spring. On Brian’s Way a semi-garden was planted. More plants were planted on West Road. Vice Chairman Bidwell said that it’s important to identify and protect areas in town where milkweed is already growing, especially town property. He also asked if the list is a part of a larger document where the commission can dig in deeper. Ms. Houlihan said the supplement given to the commissioners is an excerpt that reflects conservation actions. She can provide the complete list, and the list is also available on the Sustainable Connecticut website. Ms. Amsel will get back to the commission on the plant species that could not be planted as a part of a pollinator pathway. Commissioner Harford referred to a website called pollinatorpathway.org for assistance.

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

Ms. Houlihan said this item should continue to be on the agenda. As the commission goes through the Sustainable Connecticut action item list, there may be an opportunity to overlap with some of the goals and strategies for conservation in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program:

The second Oakridge Dairy farmland preservation application - that has been in the works since 2016 – is set to close in September. The farmland layer on GIS will be updated to reflect the Wraight property, as well as the farmland preservation easement that closed in October of 2021 for Oakridge Dairy.

4. Report - Open Space Preservation Program:

The commission discussed 79 Kibbe Road, a potential open space preservation parcel. Scott Brady, partial property owner, confirmed there’s been no reduction in the price of the property. In addition to Ms. Houlihan, Commissioner Gage and First Selectman Lori Spielman have also reached out separately to Mr. Brady. The matter is status.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:
1. FY 21-22 Conservation Advocacy Contributions and FY 22-23 Budget & Expenditure Update
Customarily, the commission donate unexpended budget funds to different conservation groups. Previously, the three groups the commission donated to are the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, the Northern Connecticut Land Trust, and the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee. The commission can no longer donate to the trails committee because they now have their own budget. There was about $1,000 left in FY21/22 budget and it was encumbered. The commission’s motion to approve contributions to conservation groups is needed by the end August. This is the last time the commission will have to go through the encumbrance process because next year’s donations are an approved budget line item.

Commissioner Gage abstained due to a conflict of interest.

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED (GAGE ABSTAINED) TO DONATE $500.00 TO CONNECTICUT LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL, AND $500.00 TO THE NORTHERN CONNECTICUT LAND TRUST.

2. Approval of the June 14, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED (GAGE) SECONDED (HARFORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

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

Ms. Amsel said that markers had been installed on three or four trails for emergency services. First responders came to look at the markers and observe how they would proceed should an emergency situation arise. Ms. Amsel said First Selectman Spielman said the town received $55,000 through a grant that would allow the town to remove dangerous trees at Metcalf open space and permit trails to be reopened. There is currently no timeframe for award of the grant.

The committee has not spent a lot of time working on the trails because of the extreme warm weather. There is still conversation about putting disc golf at Ellington Highlands. Ms. Amsel also reported that there was a good turnout for the birdwatching program and astronomy program. There were 11 people for the birdwatching program and 40 people for the astronomy program.

b. Connecticut Farmland Trust – June Update at a Glance

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (NICKERSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel Trask, Recording Clerk
Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

Special Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2022
Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr. Meeting Hall

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larrissa Burke, Judi Manfre

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Tom Palshaw

I. Call to Order: Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

II. Citizens' Forum: Mr. Palshaw brought up some graffiti on the athletic field sign; this will be addressed by Public Works.

III. Approval of Minutes
   A. July 6, 2022

Ms. Anderson discussed an edit concerning the Trail of Treats; the banner will be left out to limit the size of the crowd, not to change the flow of traffic. Officers will be present until 8:30, not 8:40 pm. Public Works moved a large strip at Batz; herbicide that kills mugwort was put down along the guardrails. Ms. van Zelm stated that her name had been miscapitalized in the minutes.

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (WAMBOLT-GULICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 6, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED.

IV. Old Business
   A. Hockanum River Association Report

There was nothing new to report. They are still working on mowing maintenance; four machines are out mowing. Ms. Anderson shared that she sent out a thank you to the Boy Scout who completed the benches.

   B. New Maps Update

Ms. Anderson shared that Mr. Radziwon will not be able to finish the maps until the winter, which will allow them to finish up Crystal Ridge and Ellington Highlands.

   C. Crystal Ridge Update

Ms. Anderson shared that the Eagle Scout is planning to go forward with work on the Crystal Ridge Trail, and he has an active fundraiser going to help with the project. If he is unable to complete the project for any reason, the Scout Troop is planning to step in and get it finished as planned.

   D. Ellington Highlands Update

   1. Disc Golf
Ms. Anderson shared that she walked the trail with Dustin and laid out what the Committee would like, designating what portion of the space would be for trails and what portion would be for disc golf. The designer of the course would set it up so that discs would be thrown away from the neighborhood houses. They are also considering putting in a barrier.

Ms. McCormick clarified what portion of the space they are looking at. Ms. Anderson shared that it is before going over the first small bridge, down a path of the left. It would be marked with a sign and all the rules/regulations of the course. The trails would be off to the right. There is a tree in the space of the potential disc golf space, and it would be about ¼ of the space of the field. That would be as close as the course goes to the houses.

Ms. McCormick expressed her concern that there isn’t an easy access route there, just the emergency access between two neighboring houses. Ms. McCormick shared that the neighborhood is already concerned about the treatment they receive from people going into that space, and there are concerns about purposefully throwing things at the houses.

Ms. Amsel further clarified where the intended space is and asked who would pay for the course, which is the Recreation Department. Ms. Anderson confirmed that the Committee is not responsible for the maintenance of the course, and not responsible for any injuries. The Town needs to recognize that there are liabilities associated with participating in disc golf. Ms. Anderson shared that she found instances online where people faced serious injuries as a result of disc golf, specifically on courses that were in shared spaces.

The disc golf course will now be moving forward through the design and approval processes with the Town. Ms. Anderson shared that members of the community have expressed concern about the course. The fact that there are concerned citizens has been shared with the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Committee feels it is important to identify and bring up any possible concerns with the development of the course.

Ms. McCormick shared that there are plenty of other courses in the area.

Ms. Anderson shared her concern around erosion, based on the usage of the land. This would be a concern for the actual trail, but there are off-trail erosion concerns based on misthrown discs. She expressed concerns over injuries - to other people using the trails, to the trees, or to people that might climb a tree to obtain misthrown discs.

Ms. McLaughlin asked if neighboring towns have spaces dedicated to just disc golf, or if they have trails going through them. Ms. Amsel shares that the disc golf courses she is familiar with have the disc golf areas well separated from trails.

Ms. McLaughlin asked about what disc golf players like in a course. Ms. Anderson shared that they don’t like just open fields. Ms. McLaughlin asked if they’l need to cut down trees. Ms. Anderson says no, but they will need to cut down brush. Ms. McLaughlin expressed concern over the impact this would have on wildlife. Mr. Dinnie shared that when the course was developed in Wickham Park, players specifically did not want to be anywhere near hikers. Ms. Anderson echoed that she has heard this from other people who play.

Ms. Amsel asks if the Committee can present an alternative to the Town, where the course would not intersect with trails. Ms. Anderson said that Dustin is open to other parcels if this does get approved. Ms. van Zelm echoed that it really might be better to find a different space that would not need as much consideration in terms of limiting the impact of the course, such as the barrier and direction of the throwing for different holes.

Mr. Palshaw shared that there are many other properties out there that could be considered for this, such as a property on Abbott, which would not be suitable for trails. He suggested that the Committee look into different properties available; Ms. Amsel agreed. Ms. Anderson reminded the Committee that any
property would also need to have parking available, and that some land parcels have usage restrictions. Ms. Anderson will identify different already-owned parcels that could be used for this purpose.

Ms. van Zelm asked if there is an appetite for the course in Town, and Ms. Anderson affirmed that there is interest in creating a disc golf course.

The Committee reaffirmed its concern about the development of a disc golf course, due to the liability issues and impact to wildlife and trails.

E. Conservation Commission Report – Val Amsel

2022 Sustainable CT, which Ellington is exploring, was discussed. There are some items that would impact the Committee, such as pollinator pathways. Ms. Amsel shared the definition of what a pollinator pathway is, and clarified that the goal is to get as many organizations involved in Town as possible. This is something that Shared Services will be looking at. Ms. Amsel says that the Committee would want to look at what pollinator paths are already in existence. Batz and Windermere Trails would lend themselves to pollinator paths already.

Ms. van Zelm clarified who is spearheading this initiative. Ms. Amsel says that it is the Town that is seeking certification in this program. Ms. van Zelm asked who is looking to gather the information; Ms. Amsel said that it is Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner. Ms. van Zelm is willing to take on the task of passing along the information as to what the Committee can do to help.

Ms. Amsel shared that the Committee can look up pollinator towns, which Ellington is not currently. Ms. van Zelm expressed that it is a lot of work, and Ms. McLaughlin volunteered to help, stating that she would like to get involved with this project as she is available.

Ms. Anderson summed up that the Committee will get in touch with Lisa, and see what the next step is and how the Committee can help. She reiterated that Windermere would be a great trail to develop to this end, but points out that this would involve fighting the invasives in the trails, which would be challenging because there aren’t enough volunteers to tackle that with ease. Ms. Anderson said that this could be a good Eagle Scout/Scout project as well.

F. Trail of Treats Update

Ms. Anderson shared that the project is moving along, and she asked members of the Committee about helping to contact different businesses. The applications will be going out soon.

Ms. Anderson drew attention to the map, sharing that many agree it would be beneficial to have a path which separates the entrance and the exit. It would just involve temporarily modifying the fencing. This plan would also make it so that the entrance is near fire department lights, making the entrance well lit. Mr. Stavens also volunteered to provide any light needed for the project. Rachel is providing stakes for this at wholesale price for the trail. Hopefully CERT members will be able to help with traffic. Due to scheduling needs, the markers for the vendor spaces will be set up on Friday afternoon. Troop 96 is confident they’ll be able to get people to help stake the parking lot, which only leaves marking the path and doing the luminaries for Monday.

Ms. Anderson suggested that perhaps the Scouts would be able to help with additional eyes and ears along the path, helping anyone that might need it. She is hopeful that perhaps they can help with the collection of food as well.

Ms. Amsel asked when the Committee would need help for this event. Ms. Anderson said that set up help is needed on Monday morning, setting up the zigzag lines and the luminaries, and also needed on Monday, at 3:00 pm, when the vendors start setting up.

G. Mowing at Batz
Ms. Anderson spoke to Ken Radziwon, Director of Public Works, about setting up a mowing plan, and asked if mowing could be done towards the end of November. Mr. Radziwon said that wouldn't be possible because the mowers will be put away by then, so the mowing may need to be done earlier.

V. New Business

A. Metcalf – Tree Removal

Thanks to the work on First Selectman Spielman and State Representative Foster, $55,000 has been secured from the State to address the dead trees on the Metcalf Trails; there is some wiggle room with the funds to address signage needs, as well. Ms. Anderson suggested that the members think about areas where signage may be needed, including existing trails as well as those in development.

B. Kimball/Hopkins Road

Ms. McCormick and Mr. Palshaw brought this item to Ms. Anderson’s attention; they will be changing the entrance and exit for Hopkins Road. The curved dirt road will be avoided, and instead the exit will be at Pinnacle, hopefully placing a light. The plans are finalized but should be out soon. This could affect the Kimball Peach Trail and the Shenipsit Trail. Ms. Amsel expressed concern over the bridges that are currently there; Ms. Anderson assured the Committee that it is unlikely that this plan would affect that aspect of the trail.

Ms. Anderson plans to advocate for a parking space for the Kimball and Shenipsit Trails.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Treasurer

Ms. Anderson said that this will likely be Ms. McLaughlin’s last report, as she intends to step down as Treasurer. Ms. McLaughlin shared a copy of her latest report, and said that the expectation, based on new budgeting practices, is that the Committee is expected to raise $500. Ms. Anderson disagreed, stating that she spoke to the Town about this, and that it will be adjusted once the Committee completes a form in January. Ms. McLaughlin shared and explained her documentation to Ms. Anderson.

Ms. McLaughlin also shared that it would be a good idea next year to ask for an increase in the Committee’s budget, given the expansion of programming and addition of new trails; she feels it would be a good idea to keep track of how many hours the Committee spends working on projects.

B. Planning & Development

There was no further discussion.

C. Maintenance

1. Kimball
2. Metcalf
3. Windermere
4. Batz

Ms. Anderson shared that she and Ms. Manfre put up signage at Kimball, Metcalf, Windermere and Batz. They also removed graffiti with a cleaner that should help deter future graffiti. Some brush was cut at Kimball; poison ivy at that location needs to be addressed. There is also a branch that currently hides the sign there.

D. Community Outreach

1. Astronomy

Ms. Anderson shared that this event was a success and that people really enjoyed it; she is planning to have two of these events next year. It would be interested to try to plan an event around a meteor shower, though the timing would be a potential challenge.
2. 3 Foragers Talk at Hall Memorial Library
This event is being held on Tuesday, August 16 at 6:30 and is co-sponsored with Hall Memorial Library. Mushrooms were expected to be brought, but Ms. Anderson shared that that may be a challenge due to the current lack of rainfall.

3. Fall Festival
The Fall Festival is being planned for Saturday, October 15, with a raindate of the 22nd. The Committee should decide if they'd like to participate and provide an activity; this decision will be made by the next meeting.

VII. Adjournment
MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 8:10 PM.

Prepared by Deanna Wambolt-Gulick; submitted by Julia Connor