

**TOWN OF VERNON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

14 Park Place, Town Council Chambers (3rd Floor) Vernon, CT 06066

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commission members present: Chairperson, Nicholas Cranmer, Jeffrey Carlson, Jeannette Smith, and Jason Seacat

Also present: Leslie Campolongo, Planning and Zoning Specialist/Zoning Enforcement Officer, Beth Bates, Recording Secretary

Chairperson Nicholas Cranmer called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

2. Administrative Actions/Requests

2.1 Approval of the Minutes – January 23, 2023

Commissioner Smith requested that the minutes be changed so that section **4.2 Other Business: Discussion-Plan of Conservation and Development** reflects the opportunity with the CT League of Conservation Voters as an educational opportunity, not as a partnership. This collaboration would involve the Commission hosting the organization for educational gain.

Discussion ensued regarding funding for educational opportunities within the Planning and Zoning department. Commissioner Smith will share with Leslie Campolongo when these educational opportunities arise.

Commissioner Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes with the change requested by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business

1. Update regarding Planning and Zoning/Inland Wetlands Applications, if any:

- **APPROVED - PZ 2023-02, 10 Snipsic St.** – Application of Adam Wing, Project Engineer, Connecticut Water Company to construct a building for new aeration equipment to replace the aging infrastructure and storage building for equipment that is stored onsite for the treatment plant and reservoir Property is zoned Restricted Watershed [Map #45, Block #123, Lot #3].

Leslie Campolongo read the approved application into record and explained that this was included in the agenda for informational purposes.

Commissioner Seacat asked if there were any footprint changes to the building; Leslie responded that she did not believe so, but plans are available for viewing with the Town of Vernon.

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
23 APR 25 AM 8:00

- **ACCEPTED - CGS 8-24 – 686 Dart Hill Rd.**
Receipt of Land from Vernon Greenways to be used as open space.

Commissioner Seacat asked for clarification of the accepted open space procedure.

Leslie Campolongo explained that by statute whenever land is bought or sold by the Town of Vernon, Town Council must approve the sale so that it can be entered into the insured library for Town property.

In the case of CGS 8-24, the Planning and Zoning Commission found that it was consistent with the requirements for acquiring Town property and recommended that the Town Council accept the purchase.

Town Council accepted the purchase and this land is now open space for the Town of Vernon.

Discussion ensued.

4. Other Business/Goals/Discussion

4.1 Discussion - **Vernon Holistic Health Fair** - April 15 and 16, 2023 at Vernon Center Middle School.

Leslie Campolongo thanked the Commission for their representation at the Holistic Health Fair. Commissioner Cranmer, Commissioner Smith, and Commissioner Carlson reported that all went well.

Commissioner Smith supplied a list of questions and comments as feedback from her time at the Holistic Health Fair.

Discussion ensued regarding various ways to reach the community at these events building on efforts already in place within the community, such as National Night Out in August. Commissioners agreed that they will develop an engaging topic heading to create interest within the community. Leslie will facilitate by providing the Commission with list of potential dates for Town events for the next Conservation meeting. The ultimate goal will be to create excitement about ecological topics throughout all citizens of the Town of Vernon.

Discussion ensued regarding Parks and Recreation working along with Jane Seymour and Julie Halpin to bring the outdoors to summer camps through birdwatching and other experiences. This would promote interest in the outdoors to the younger residents of the Town of Vernon.

Commissioner Cranmer offered to distribute flyers at Friends of Valley Falls tree walk explaining what roll the Conservation Commission plays in the town and the ecological issues faced by the Town of Vernon.

Leslie Campolongo informed the Commission that there is an active email for the Conservation Commission and it is handled by Ashley Stephens, Town Planner. Plans were discussed for all members to have names included on the website for the Conservation Commission; Leslie will facilitate this with Town Administration. The goal is to ensure that the Conservation Commission is accessible to the Town of Vernon in all capacities and that all information remains accurate and up to date.

Commissioner Cranmer informed the Commission that he will be resigning to accept a PhD position. He will submit formal resignation to the Town Clerk's office. Discussion ensued regarding filling this position once vacant.

4.2 Discussion - Material provided by Parks and Recreation Director, Martin Sitler
"Management of Facilities and Resources", Valley Falls Park.

Leslie Campolongo informed the Commission that this was included for informational purposes.

Martin Sitler was scheduled to speak and promote material at an earlier occasion, but due to scheduling conflicts, this did not take place.

Commissioner Seacat expressed that this document provided ecological value and wished for the Commission to extend appreciation to Martin Sitler for his dedication to the conservation of the Vernon Greenways.

Discussion ensued regarding signage for the protected green space within Vernon.

Commissioner Seacat made a motion to thank Martin Sitler and Parks and Recreation for the material provided, and to suggest that this information be shared with the public as educational information, such as laminated signs in the kiosks throughout the open space and greenways in Vernon. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

4.3 Update – Tulip Tree Trail Blazing, Bolton Notch State Park.

No update; Commissioner Cranmer was unable to attend.

5. Adjournment

Commissioner Cranmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Seacat seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Bates
Recording Secretary