

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, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, 7:00 PM NDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX 57 MAIN STREET E

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 Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4-Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation. (*Distributed January 10, 2023*)
 - a. Develop strategies for raising awareness about open space and farmland preservation.
- 2. Review Sustainable CT Certification Action Overview Worksheet Conservation Sections
 - a. 3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan
 - b. 3.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory
 - c. 5.3 Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practice
- 3. Report Farmland Preservation Program.
- 4. Report Open Space Preservation Program.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

- 1. FY 23-24 Budget & Expenditure Update.
- 2. Approval of July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.
- 3. Correspondence/Discussion:
 - a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee Monthly Agendas/Minutes.
 - b. CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. (CACIWC), Sat. November 11, 2023 Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference and a copy of CACIWC Membership Renewal (July 1,2023 thru June 30, 2024).
 - c. CT Land Conservation Council contribution thank you letter (July 11, 2023).
 - d. Notice of Petition for Declaratory Ruling for a 5MW battery energy storage system, KCE CT 5, LLC, Village Hill Road, Willington/Stafford, CT.
 - e. CT Siting Council, Petition No. 1558 Decision and Order (August 3, 2023), for a 4MW solar photovoltaic facility, Community Power Group, LLC, 28.4 acres, 24 Middle Road, Rural Agricultural Residential (RAR) Zone.
 - f. Notice of Petition for Declaratory Ruling for a 3MW solar photovoltaic facility, USS Somers Solar, LLC, 19.2 acres, 360 Somers Road, Industrial (I) Zone.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting is October 10, 2023.

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

Join Zoom Meeting via link:

Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82284422611

Meeting ID: 822 8442 2611

Passcode: 838165

Join Zoom Meeting by phone: 1-646-558-8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 822 8442 2611

Passcode: 838165

	Town of Ellington	lington				
General Ledger - On Demand Report	Fiscal Year: 2023-2024	2023-2024	From Date:7/1/2023		To Date:8/29/2023	
Account Mask: ??????00270??????		Account Type: All Include Inactive Accounts	Print Detail Perent Detail Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range	Print Deta	Include Pre	eEncumbrance Budget Ralance
Account Number / Description	Budget	Budget Range To Date		Balance	mbrance %	Remaining Bud
1000.02.00270.10.50103	\$1,600.00	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$1,470.00	\$0.00	\$1,470.00
Part TimeConservation Commission						91.88%
1000.02.00270.20.60221	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Advertising PrintingConservation Commission				-		100.00%
1000.02.00270.20.60222	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$1,350.00
Dues & SubscriptionsConservation Commission						100.00%
Fund: 1000	\$3,350.00	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$3,220.00	\$0.00	\$3,220.00

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General Ledger - On Demand Report	ind Report	Fiscal Year: 2023-2024		From Date:7/1/2023	To Date:	To Date:8/29/2023	
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	Grand Total:	\$3,350.00	\$130.00	\$130.00 \$	\$3,220.00	\$0.00	\$3,220.00

End of Report

Report: rptNewOnDemandGLRpt Printed: 08/29/2023 9:43:21 AM



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TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023, 7:00 PM

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

PRESENT:

In-Person: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Regular Member Laurie Burstein

(arrived at 7:08PM), and Alternate Ann Harford

Remote Attendance: Vice Chairman David Bidwell, Regular Members George

Nickerson, Robert Zielfelder, and James Gage

ABSENT:

Regular Member Sean Dwyer and Alternate Jessica Fay

STAFF:

Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner and Nathaniel Trask, Recording Clerk

OTHERS

PRESENT: Valerie Amsel, Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee Liaison (arrived at 7:28PM,

left at 7:37PM)

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

BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION ADDED EXECUTIVE SESSION TO ACTIVE BUSINESS ITEM 4 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE REAL ESTATE ACQUISITIONS.

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

- 1. Review Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4 Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation & Identify Considerations/Strategies for Action. (Distributed January 10, 2023)
 - a. Develop strategies for raising awareness about open space and farmland preservation efforts and benefits.

The trails committee handed out an open space brochure that had recently been updated at the Earth Day event in April. Printing of the brochure was paid by the Conservation Commission. An article about open space and farmland was also placed in the June newsletter. Ms. Houlihan contacted the Farmer's Market master to ask if there were any relevant themed days for the commission to host a booth. The Farmer's Market will be holding "Meet Your Community Organizations Day" on September 2, 2023. The master did tell Ms. Houlihan that they could pick any other day if they wish and suggested they avoid August 5 or August 26.

Commissioners began discussing what dates they would be available. Ms. Houlihan said she would not be able to attend on September 2, but the commission could still attend. Chairman Quarno said she was unable to do September 2nd too. Ms. Houlihan said the only available date in August would be August 12.

The commission will continue discussing when to have a booth at the Farmer's Market at the next meeting.

- 2. Pursuant to action by the Board of Selectmen (May 8, 2023) to establish the Ellington Sustainability Team, review conservation sections from the 2023 Sustainable Connecticut Certification Action Overview Worksheet
 - a. 3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan
 - b. 3.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory
 - c. 3.7 Provide Education on Responsible Water Usage
 - d. 5.3 Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practice
 - e. 5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources

On May 8, 2023, the Board of Selectmen passed a motion to create the Ellington Sustainability Team for the purpose of receiving Sustainable CT certification. They named Tom Modzelewski, Director of Public Works, and Ms. Houlihan, Town Planner, the cochairs of the group. The Board of Selectmen granted the co-chairs the authority to identify other departments and staff to aid in the effort to address the action items and requirements for Sustainable CT certification. Mr. Modzelewski and Ms. Houlihan met with Adrian Huq, a Sustainable CT fellow who is available through the Capital Region Council of Governments to help towns. A kick-off meeting was held with a group of department heads and they discussed sustainable action items and Adrian provided an overview of the program. The group will be meeting monthly with the goal of applying for a bronze certification in April of 2024.

As part of the Conservation Commission's goals of achieving Sustainable CT certification, Ms. Houlihan said she is focusing on the open space plan. She spent three hours updating the town's inventory of preserved open space and farmland. Sustainable CT needs to know the location, size, and main uses of each parcel, as well as if it was protected by way of an easement and when that was filed, along with other information. She is looking to complete Item 3.4 before going to Item 5.3 because it is in a different section, which would fulfill more of the requirements. She and John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner, are working with other commissions to fulfill other action items. She suggested if commissioners want to know more about Sustainable CT to visit their website for more information.

Chairman Quarno asked who else is on the Ellington Sustainability Team. Ms. Houlihan said it is made up of a group of department heads and committee members including Susan Phillips, Library Director, Rebecca Stack, Human Services Director, John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner, Walter Lee, Emergency and Risk Management Director, Raymond Martin, Building Official, and Samuel Saunders, Recycling and Refuse Coordinator. She and Mr. Modzelewski are still working on identifying more people to join the team. Chairman Quarno asked what the commission can be doing during meetings to support the efforts of the team, such as reviewing things or providing input. Ms. Houlihan said that was part of the reason why this item needs to be a focus on the commission's agenda. She will give a status update or discuss action items monthly with the commission.

Commissioner Harford asked what the benefit of getting a bronze certification was. Ms. Houlihan said there is an awards ceremony and grant money involved. She said the grant money is a maximum of \$15,000 per project and the town needs to match \$7,500. To

make up the \$7,500, there needs to be crowdsourcing or donations. The town has already fulfilled some of the action items for certification, but some items still need to be addressed. Now that the team has been created, the town will have a better shot at achieving since the categories will be assigned to particular town departments. Chairman Quarno said she is glad the group has been revived.

3. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program.

Ms. Houlihan said in June the commission passed a motion to become a funding partner for Farm 2 at Oakridge Dairy, which is 101 acres. The town's portion will be 10%, or just about \$50,000. She said she is working with the Finance Department to determine if there is funding available from the existing bond authorization. This is important so they know where the funding is coming from when she presents it to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Ms. Houlihan is working with Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer, and could be presenting to the BOS to ask for appropriation on August 14. She will confirm with the commission when the presentation will be and encourage commissioners to attend the meeting if they wish to.

The Planning Department sent a letter of interest asking landowners if they wanted to preserve any of their farmland. Three responses came back to the Planning Department. One of the responses was from Roberta Hambach, Broad Brook Road, whose 40-acre property has been actively farmed for years. Ms. Houlihan spoke with the property owner last week. The process to protect this property could take 1-2 years minimum. Ms. Houlihan noted that this parcel is perfect for farmland preservation and 40 acres of land is sizeable. Chairman Quarno expressed her pleasure that the effort to send the letters of interest generated some interest.

Another one of the responses that was returned to the Planning Department was about a piece of farmland that has eight different property owners. To start the process of preserving this parcel, each of the property owners needs to sign the application to do so. All the property owners live in different places. Ms. Houlihan believes it will not proceed further.

4. Report – Open Space Preservation Program.

Vernon and Ellington talked about the Hockanum River Linear Park. There was a strip of land that was due to be turned over to Ellington when Vernon bought the land. Due to the comprehensive recreational facility being constructed there, Ms. Houlihan said town officials did not think it made sense for Ellington to maintain or be responsible for the portion of the Linear Park that abuts Vernon's recreational fields. Therefore, Ellington will be conveying 5.1 acres on the south side of the Hockanum River to Vernon. Ellington will be retaining the portion of the parcel on the north side of the river. Contained in the deed, there will be the rights for the town of Ellington to access that portion of the property for passive recreation since there has been some conversation about putting a bridge there. There is an inter-town facility use agreement where Vernon has given Ellington some use rights on the park.

5. Executive session for purpose of discussing potential open space real estate acquisitions.

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (BURSTEIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:41PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE REAL ESTATE ACQUISITIONS INVITING COMMISSION MEMBERS, THE RECORDING CLERK, AND THE TOWN PLANNER.

The Conservation Commission moved into Executive Session.

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (QUARNO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXIT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:57PM. NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS WERE MADE DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

- 1. FY 22-23 Budget & Expenditure Update.
 - a. Memo to Finance Department (dated June 29, 2023) for disbursements from Dues & Subscriptions for FY22/23.

The budget report and disbursements were reviewed. There was an expense for advertising and printing, as well as the services of the part-time recording clerk.

2. Approval of the May 2, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (NICKERSON) SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2023 AS WRITTEN.

- 3. Correspondence/Discussion:
 - b. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee Monthly Agendas/Minutes.

The commission went out of agenda order to address this item.

Valerie Amsel, the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee Liaison, reported to the commission on the opening of the Crystal Lake open space property and a bridge that was built there. Four volunteers from Key Bank came to help complete the bridge, and another volunteer came to help. A new man on the committee helped finish the bridge. The committee is working with the town to see about creating a parking lot at Crystal Ridge. The committee is also preparing to hold a raptor event. Ms. Amsel said bridges are being replaced near the culvert on Windermere Avenue and confirmed that some material was sourced from the Public Works Department. Vice Chairman Bidwell asked if anything had been decided on the Highland property. Ms. Amsel said no and that Dustin Huguenin, Recreation Director, does not want to commit to that. She said she would like to see if she can salvage the framework of the bridge at the property. She expressed concern that someone might destroy the bridge again if it were to be rebuilt. She would like another one to be rebuilt, but wanted some assurances that the work would be completed. Ms. Amsel confirmed there has been no further vandalism at the property.

Ms. Amsel reported that there was no trails committee meeting last month.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (BURSTEIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:00 PM.

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Nathaniel Trask, Recording Clerk

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND INCORPORATED



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 JUDI MANFRE LARRISSA BURKE DONNA ALLEN LINDSAY NEUBECKER BILL SCHULTZ

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee Regular Meeting Minutes August 2, 2023 Town Hall Annex

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>: Linda Anderson, Cynthia van Zelm, Valerie Amsel, Judi Manfre, Donna Allen, Bill Schultz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Larissa Burke, Lindsay Neubecker

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palshaw

I. Call to Order

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. She took a moment to acknowledge Bill Schultz as a new member of the Committee.

II. Citizens' Forum

No citizens came forward for comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. June 14, 2023

MOVED (MANFRE), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2023 MEETING.

IV. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Crew Report

Mr. Palshaw shared that the crew's activities have been hindered by excessive rain throughout the months of June and July. They have been doing their best to stay on top of the mowing and have temporarily laid some planks over flooded areas to keep the trail open.

He reported that there has been some vandalism on the West Street Trail. A sign was torn down and bent, but he expects to be able to repair it and put it back up. The ramp to the bridge near the horse trailer has been stolen.

Ms. Anderson stated that Tom Modzelewski and Walter Lee have instructed the Trails Committee to cease all work on the West Street Trail until the sale of the property is finalized and easements have been attained for Town usage; further discussion can be found in Article V. New Business below.

B. Conservation Commission Report

Ms. Amsel shared that the Conservation Commission would like to get their information to more people in Town. She asked if the Committee would place the CC pamphlets on its table at the Farmer's Market on August 5.

She shared that there has been a new push for the Sustainable CT campaign and asked that the Trails Committee help educate the Town residents about participation in the program.

Ms. Anderson shared that some people have been concerned about the un-mowed areas near the amphitheater at the Batz Property. She will publish information in the next newsletter about the mowing schedule to educate why areas are mowed or not mowed to help protect the pollinators.

C. Parking at Crystal Ridge

Ms. Anderson shared a map regarding proposed parking on Old Sandy Beach Road. The map indicated parking to be allowed on one side of the road approaching the cul-de-sac. Parking will not be allowed in the cul-de-sac to allow access for emergency vehicles, Verizon, and Frontier.

Mr. Palshaw asked for clarification regarding the placement of emergency markers near the trail head at the cul-de-sac (to be identified as Entrance #1). Ms. Spielman said all abutters will be sent a letter regarding parking on Old Sandy Beach Road. No kiosk or emergency markers will be placed until approved.

D. Girl Scout Project at Batz - Gold Star

Ms. Anderson shared that Laurel's Gold Star project has been approved. She is collecting clay pots to bring to the Farmer's Market on August 5. Children and adults will be invited to decorate a pot to make toad houses. She will organize a group to place the decorated toad pots at the Batz Property.

She is continuing her campaign to get information about her project to members of the community. She is also working toward getting the tool shed built at Batz.

E. New Storage Unit

Ms. Anderson shared that all our materials were moved to the storage unit. It has been requested that the exterior be painted. Ms. Manfre will contact Kat Lanz (EHS Art Teacher) to ask if students would like to take on the project as a community service project.

F. Bluebird Houses - Batz

Ms. Anderson shared that the Girl Scouts are still planning to build bluebird houses. She has contacted Jane Seymour (DEEP Steward) about coordinating with the Scouts regarding the specifications and placement of the houses.

G. Ellington Highlands Update

Ms. Anderson said there was no word about Disc Golf at the Ellington Highlands property. She will speak with Mr. Modzelewski regarding closing the parking lot.

V. New Business

A. West Road and Franklin Street

As discussed during the Hockanum River Crew Report, Ms. Anderson stated that Tom Modzelewski and Walter Lee have instructed the Trails Committee to cease all work on the West Street trail until the sale of the property is finalized and easements have been attained for Town usage.

Ms. Anderson shared that a small portion of the land may be conveyed to Vernon as part of their new soccer field project. The Planning and Zoning Commission have allowed giving Ellington rights for passive (recreational) usage.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Treasurer

Ms. Anderson asked Felicia LaPlante to send her a breakdown of the Trails Committee budget for FY 2024.

B. Maintenance

1. Bridge at Crystal Ridge

Ms. Anderson stated that, under the direction of Ms. Amsel and with the help of Trails Committee members and volunteers from the community, the bridge over the Aborn Brook at Crystal Ridge has been built and has survived the recent floods. Ms. Amsel would like to put some stones at each end of the bridge.

2. Batz - Weed Whacking, Weed Control, Poison Ivy Control

Ms. Anderson, Ms. Allen and Mr. Schultz spent a morning clearing all the weeds from the amphitheater area and spraying poison ivy at the Batz Property. Ms. Manfre and a young assistant pulled weeds around the garden area and entrance sign.

Ms. Anderson also spent some time weed whacking around the base of the trees in the orchard area.

3. Metcalf – New Bench, New Path Gravel, Signs, Poison Ivy Control, Emergency Signs

Ms. Anderson shared that the DPW put new gravel from the road to the trail entrance at the Metcalf Trail. As part of the original grant, a bench will also be placed near the entrance.

During a recent walk through, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Amsel observed that the ground cover has grown in well and the remaining trees are starting to spread out, filling the area where the trees had been cleared. No poison ivy was seen.

Mr. Palshaw placed emergency signs and Ms. Amsel put up boundary signs and warning signs regarding motorized vehicles. Mr. Palshaw placed the emergency markers high on trees to try to avoid vandalism. He suggested that the Committee paint bright yellow blazes on the trees with emergency markers to make them more visible.

It was observed that private property signs have been posted by abutters.

4. Kimball – Bridges

Ms. Anderson reported that the bridges at Kimball have survived the floods. She asked the Boy Scout Leaders if the scouts would take on a project to help put stairs back at the base of the bridges.

C. Community Outreach

1. Astronomy Event in June - Cancelled

This event was cancelled due to poor weather.

2. Raptor Program – July 19th

The program was moved to the library due to oppressively hot weather. Approximately 35 people attended.

3. Farmers Market – August 5th

The Committee will set up a table at the Farmers Market to educate the community about Ellington's trails. Members will hand out maps, information about the upcoming Stargazing Event, and brochures about the Conservation Committee's Open Spaces.

- 4. Astronomy-Stargazing August 10th, 9pm-midnight, Pinney Field A table will be set up at 8:45 and Committee members will assist the library and the astronomy club as needed.
- 5. Zen Animals: Critters for Adults August 16th, 6p, Hall Memorial Library Ms. Anderson asked if anyone was available to help with this program; please pre-register with the library.
 - 6. Website Information Update

Ms. Anderson shared that the trails information on the Town website is dated. She would like it to be updated annually. Julia Connor would be able to update it for us, but we will need to get her the information. Ms. van Zelm volunteered to coordinate with Ms. Connor.

7. Lori's TV Show - October 17th

Ms. Anderson will be a guest on Ms. Spielman's Community Voice Channel program.

VII. **Additional Business**

Ms. Anderson said the Lions Club invited her to a planning meeting for the Trail of Treats to share her notes from previous years.

VIII. Adjournment

MOVED (MANFRE), SECONDED (VAN ZELM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:54 PM.

Prepared by Donna L. Allen; submitted by Julia Connor



Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc

deKoven House Community Center 27 Washington Street Middletown, CT 06457 www.caciwc.org

The CACIWIC 2023 Conference Will Celebrate Conservation Commissions while supporting Inland Wetlands Agencies

Greetings Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commissions,

While CACIWC celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) during our 2022 conference, CACIWC will be celebrating the 50th and 60th anniversaries of several Connecticut Public Acts that strengthened the ability of Connecticut Conservation Commissions to carry out their work.

We have set Saturday, November 11, 2023, as the date for our 2023 46th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference and again will be offering a substantial discount on our conference registration fee to CACIWC member commissions and staff. Please watch our website for additional information on this conference.



Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

To: CACIWC Members and Supporters:

Membership Dues for July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, are now due.

Please consider joining CACIWC or renewing your membership.

Your annual dues support CACIWC education and outreach programs, the Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, the publication and distribution of our newsletter The Habitat, the CACIWC.org website and CACIWC's operational budget. Please note that we have not increased membership fees for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Your continued support is vital to our mission to promote the statutory responsibilities of Connecticut Conservation Commissions and Inland Wetlands Agencies, and to foster environmental quality through education and through the conservation and protection of wetlands and other natural resources.

CACIWC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please complete the below form and return to with your check payable to CACIWC at: CACIWC; deKoven House Community Center; 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

CACIWC; deKoven House Community Center; 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06	5457
CACIWC MEMBERSHIP - July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 Voting: Commissions & Agencies One Commission	iewal
Non-Voting: Individual, Organization, Business	
☐ Individual \$25.00 ☐ Student \$10.00 ☐ Organization/Business	\$ 50.00
☐ Saw-whet Owl \$35.00 ☐ Organization/Business (Supporting Member)	\$ 100.00
☐ Long-eared Owl \$50.00 ☐ Organization/Business (Sustaining Member)	\$ 250.00
☐ Great Horned Owl \$100.00 ☐ Individual (Lifetime)	\$ 750.00
Please visit www.caciwc.org and click on "Support CACIWC" for additional information	1
CONTACT INFORMATION:	
Commission/Organization/Individual Name: Elling for Inland Wetland Genery	
City/Town: Elling for	
Address: 57 Main Street Ellington, CT 06029	
Phone: 860-876-3120 email (required): irolonese @ Ellingth	on-CT. GOV
Chairperson's Name: <u>Jean Burns</u> email:	<i>y</i>
Phone: 860-870-3120 email (required): jeolonese @ Ellingh. Chairperson's Name: John Colonese Phone/email: 860-870-31201 jeolonese Phone/email: 860-870-31201 jeolonese	se@ Ellingten-CT-gov
NOTE: If membership payment is for two commissions, please complete the followi	ing.
Name of 2nd Commission: Conservation Commission	
Address: 57 Main Street Ellington, CT 06029	
Phone: 860-870-3120 email (required): LHowlihan@ Ell	ingtun-CT. gov
Phone: 860-870-3120 email (required): LHoulihan@ Ellis Chairperson's Name: Rehocoa Quarto email: Phone/email: 360-870-31201 LHouli	
Staff Person's Name: Lisa Houlihan Phone/email: 360-870-31201 LHouli	han @Ellington-Cl. gar

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

July 11, 2023

Manh Yon, Fisa, & Ellington CC

Lisa Houlihan
Ellington Conservation Commission
PO Box 187
Ellington, CT 06029-0187

Mease let me know how we shay

Dear Lisa and Members of the Ellington Conservation Commission, MS East the fown with

Thank you for your recent membership contribution to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in the amount of \$250.00 received on July 5-2022 ***

the amount of \$250.00 received on July 6, 2023. We appreciate your partnership and are always looking for opportunities to leverage our collective strengths to support land conservation in Connecticut.

To that end, we have an exciting update! As you may have heard, CLCC recently secured a significant grant award of \$750,000 through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Grant program, of which approximately half-million dollars will be re-granted directly to CLCC member land trusts. Expected to launch in 2024, this new multi-year program will include opportunities for climate smart stewardship planning and implementation grants, as well as a wide range of training and technical assistance programs for your land trust.

This exciting stewardship program expands on our existing acquisition and transaction support programs to provide direct financial assistance to support your land trust's mission. Please watch for details as we develop the Climate Smart Program and don't hesitate to contact us with questions in the interim.

We say it all the time, and we can't say it enough: The CLCC team is energized and inspired by the work you do. We are deeply excited to bring new funding, new programs and new opportunities to your organization and land trusts throughout the state.

Thank you, once again, for your support and partnership, and for all you do to advance land conservation in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Amy Blaymore Paterson

Executive Director

RECEIVED

JUI 17 2023

TOWN OF ELLINGTON PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PS: We want to hear from you! If your commission would like more information about CLCC's programs, community conservation initiatives or to inquire about training or other education opportunities, please contact me anytime at abpaterson@ctconservation.org or (860) 852-5512. We value your input!

In keeping with Federal tax law, this letter gratefully acknowledges receipt of your charitable contribution of \$250.00 dated July 6, 2023. CLCC is a 501(c)(3) and, as required for a charitable gift, this letter confirms that no goods or services were provided in connection with this gift. Please retain this document for your records.



PULLMAN & COMLEY

LEE D. HOFFMAN
90 State House Square
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July 11, 2023

Via Certified Mail/
Return Receipt Requested

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2023

Rebecca Quarno, Chairman Conservation Commission Ellington Town Office Hall 55 Main Street Ellington, CT 06029 TOWN OF ELLINGTON
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Re: Battery Energy Storage Project, KCE CT 5, LLC, Village Hill Road, Willington / Stafford, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Quarno:

Please be advised that this office represents KCE CT 5, LLC, a subsidiary of Key Capture Energy, who are developers of battery storage systems. This letter is being sent to inform you that KCE CT 5, LLC intends to develop a 5.0-megawatt ("MW") battery energy storage system to be located at Village Hill Road, Willington, Connecticut ("Property"), near the Willington / Stafford town line.

In connection with this proposed project, KCE CT 5, LLC will be filing a petition for declaratory ruling with the Connecticut Siting Council on or after July 14, 2023, seeking the Council's approval of the battery energy storage project at the Property.

Once filed, a full digital copy of the initial Petition will be provided to the Towns of Willington, Ellington and Stafford. A full hard copy will be provided to the Towns of Willington, Ellington and Stafford if so requested. In addition, an electronic copy of the petition will be available on the Siting Council's website at www.ct.gov/csc. Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me at 860-424-4315 or the Connecticut Siting Council.

Sincerely,

Lee D. Hoffman

Lee D. Hoffun

PETITION NO. 1558 – Community Power Group LLC petition	}	Connecticut
for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes	1	
§4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance	}	Siting
and operation of a 4-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric	,	8
generating facility located at 24 Middle Road, Ellington,	}	Council
Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.	,	
		August 3 2023

Decision and Order

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) § 16-50k(a), CGS §4-176 and the foregoing Findings of Fact and Opinion, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) finds that the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Project on approximately 28.4 acres and associated electrical interconnection at 24 Middle Road, Ellington, Connecticut would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, would meet all applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Air and Water Quality Standards, and therefore, the Council will issue a declaratory ruling for the proposed solar photovoltaic electric generating facility.

Unless otherwise approved by the Council, the facility shall be constructed, operated, and maintained substantially as specified in the Council's record in this matter, and is subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Submit a copy of a DEEP-issued Stormwater Permit prior to the commencement of construction
- 2. The Petitioner shall prepare a Development and Management Plan (D&M) for this site in compliance with Sections 16-50j-60 through 16-50j-62 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The D&M Plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of facility construction and shall include:
 - a. A final site plan including, but not limited to facility layout, access roads, electrical interconnection, fence design, equipment pads, stormwater management control structures, and final seed mix;
 - b. Erosion and sedimentation control plan consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sedimentation Control and the DEEP-issued Stormwater Permit including, but not limited to, construction detail/phasing plan; installation of straw bales or other generally accepted similar control measures to reinforce silt fencing adjacent to wetland areas, temporary sediment basin detail, site stabilization measures during construction, inspection and reporting protocols, procedures for periodic cleaning of temporary sediment traps and swales during construction, and final cleaning of sediment traps/stormwater basins upon site stabilization;
 - c. Post-Construction Operations and Maintenance Plan that includes an inspection/maintenance schedule of facility components, vegetation/landscaping, including the replacement of dead or dying landscape plantings, and stormwater basin/controls, including site inspections and any necessary mitigation measures to be performed after extreme rainfall events;
 - d. Spill Prevention Control Plan for site construction and operation with contact information for the spill response contractor;
 - e. Installation of solid fencing adjacent to the transformers to reduce noise;
 - f. Post-construction noise analysis;
 - g. Landscape Plan that includes additional landscape plantings perpendicular to the access road to screen the interconnection area;

- h. Final structural design for the racking system stamped by a Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut;
- i. A sheep grazing co-use plan for the site, including, but not limited to, provisions for rotational grazing, water access and emergency evacuation with a document that shall indemnify and hold harmless the Council, its agents, representatives and employees from any and all losses, claims, actions, costs and expenses, judgments, subrogations, or other damages resulting from any injury to a person or to property arising out of the presence of third-parties within the fenced solar facility site; and
- j. Construction hours/days of the week.
- 3. Provide operations and emergency response training to local emergency responders;
- 4. In accordance with Section 16-50j-62 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, CPG shall provide the Council with written notice two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities. In addition, CPG shall provide the Council with written notice of the completion of site construction and the commencement of operation;
- 5. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's Findings of Fact, Opinion Decision & Order (collectively called "Final Decision"), this Decision & Order shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's Final Decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;
- 6. Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on the Town of Ellington;
- 7. The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under CGS §16-50v;
- 8. The facility owner/operator shall file an annual report on a forecast of loads and resources pursuant to CGS §16-50r;
- 9. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred provided both the facility owner/transferor and the transferee are current with payments to the Council for their respective annual assessments and invoices under CGS §16-50v. In addition, both the facility owner/transferor and the transferee shall provide the Council a written agreement as to the entity responsible for any quarterly assessment charges under CGS §16-50v(b)(2) that may be associated with this facility, including contact information for the individual acting on behalf of the transferee;
- 10. CPG shall maintain the facility, components, landscaping, and drainage features, in a reasonable physical and operational condition that is consistent with this Decision and Order and the Development and Management Plan to be approved by the Council;

Petition No. 1558 Decision and Order Page 3 of 3

- 11. If the facility owner/operator is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation or other entity and is sold/transferred to another corporation or other entity, the Council shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer; and
- 12. This Declaratory Ruling may be surrendered by the facility owner/operator upon written notification to the Council.

We hereby direct that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order be served on each party and intervenor or its authorized representative, as listed in the Service List, dated January 31, 2023, and notice of issuance published in the <u>Journal Inquirer</u> in accordance with CGS §4-180(c) and CGS §16-50p(f).

By this Decision and Order, the Council disposes of the legal rights, duties, and privileges of each party and intervenor named or admitted to the proceeding in accordance with RCSA 16-50j-17.

DECLARATORY RULING

The undersigned members of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) hereby certify that they have heard this case, or read the record thereof, in **PETITION NO. 1558** - Community Power Group LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 4-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 24 Middle Road, Ellington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection, and voted as follows to issue a declaratory ruling:

Council Members	Vote Cast
/s/ John Morissette John Morissette, Presiding Officer	Yes
/s/ Quat Nguyen Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett Designee: Quat Nguyen	Yes
/s/ Brían Golembíewskí Commissioner Katie Dykes Designee: Brian Golembiewski	Yes
/s/ Robert Hannon Robert Hannon	Yes
/s/ Robert Silvestri Robert Silvestri	Yes
/s/ Daniel P. Lynch, Jr. Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.	Yes

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut, August 3, 2023

Petition # 1589

PULLMAN & COMLEY

LEE D. HOFFMAN 90 State House Square Hartford, CT 06103-3702 p (860) 424-4315 f (860) 424-4370 lhoffman@pullcom.com www.pullcom.com

August 8, 2023

RECEIVED

Via Certified Mail/ Return Receipt Requested

AUG 10 2023

Rebecca Quarno, Chairman Conservation Commission Ellington Town Office Hall 55 Main Street Ellington, CT 06029 TOWN OF ELLINGTON PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Re: Proposed 4MW Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facility to be Located at 360 Somers Rd, Ellington, CT

Dear Chairman Quarno:

Please be advised that this office represents USS Somers Solar LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of US Solar ("US Solar"), who are developers of renewable energy facilities. This letter is being sent to inform you that US Solar intends to develop a 4-megawatt ("MW") alternating current ("AC") ground-mounted solar photovoltaic ("PV") system to be located at 360 Somers Road, Ellington, Connecticut ("Property").

In connection with this proposed project, US Solar will be filing a petition for declaratory ruling with the Connecticut Siting Council on or after August 16, 2023, seeking the Council's approval to develop it's solar project at the Property.

Once filed, a full digital copy of the initial Petition will be provided to the Town of Ellington. A full hard copy will be provided to the Town of Ellington if so requested. In addition, an electronic copy of the petition will be available on the Siting Council's website at www.ct.gov/csc. Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me at 860-424-4315 or the Connecticut Siting Council.

Sincerely,

Lee D. Hoffman

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PULLMAN & COMLEY

RECEIVED

23 AUG 28 PH 12: 36

ELLINGTON
TOWN CLERK

Petition 1589

Lee D. Hoffman
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August 23, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

Melanie Bachman Executive Director/Staff Attorney Connecticut Siting Council 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Petition of USS Somers Solar, LLC for a Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is Required for the Proposed Construction, Operation and Maintenance of a 3.0 +/- MW AC Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility Located at 360 Somers Road, Ellington, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Bachman:

I am writing on behalf of my client, USS Somers Solar, LLC, which is submitting the enclosed Petition for a facility to be located at the above-referenced location in Ellington, Connecticut. With this letter, I am enclosing the original and fifteen copies of the Petition, including Appendices A-C for the Petition. I am also enclosing a check for \$625.00, made payable to the Connecticut Siting Council.

I will send you an e-mail under separate cover with a link to an electronic version of the Petition and Appendices. Should you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Lee D. Hoffman

Lee D. Hoffin

Enclosures

cc:

Town Clerk, Town of Ellington, Connecticut

pullcom.com

Bridgeport

Hartford

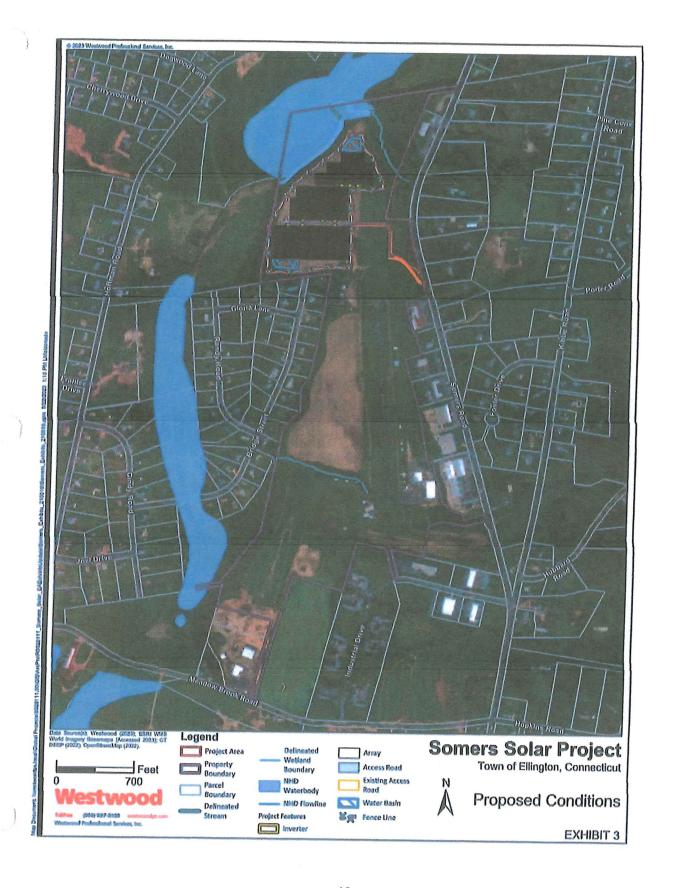
Springfield

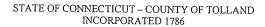
Stamford

Waterbury

Westport

White Plains







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

January 10, 2023

US Solar Corporation c/o Allen Tate, Director of Project Development 100 N. 6th Street, Suite 410B Minneapolis, MN 55403

RE: Proposed 4MWac Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facility, 360 Somers Road, Ellington, CT

Dear Allen,

The Ellington Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC/Commission) discussed your letter (dated December 2, 2022) regarding the intent to petition the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) for Declaratory Ruling and reviewed the project site plan (dated February 11, 2021) for a 4MW solar facility on a portion of Ellington Airport. The Commission expressed some concerns and requests a letter be sent to CSC once petition filed. A letter has not been issued to the CSC since petition has not been filed yet, however following is a summary of the Commission's concerns.

- Ellington Airport supports light general aviation traffic and features a helicopter flight school and one of the largest parachuting schools in the northeast. In 2006/07 Ellington invested more than \$1,000,000, partially funded by the Small Town Economic Assistance Program, to extend public sanitary sewers to Ellington Airport and surrounding industrial land to serve and retain existing industrial businesses and provide for future industrial growth. Due to limited sewer capacity, only about 4% of land in Ellington is zoned industrial. Given the limited potential for industrial development town-wide, the Commission does not support dedicating 30 acres of prime industrial land for utility-scale solar that will be in place for twenty to thirty years.
- The Federal Aviation Association and the Connecticut Department of Transportation partially funded (75%) a study in support of maintaining Ellington Airport as a regional transportation/aviation resource. The study concluded in 2010 and recommends the existing runway be extended 700' to allow it to serve 75% of small size aircrafts and to increase aviation activities. A large portion of the proposed solar facility conflicts with the Study's recommended runway extension and protection zones. (See attached Airside Alternative 4 plan)

US Solar, c/o Allen Tate Proposed 4MWac Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Facility, 360 Somers Road, Ellington, CT Page 2

The proposed solar array creates significant safety concerns. Last June a plane associated with parachuting activities overshoot the existing runway and ended-up in a vacant field and the (NBC Connecticut property zone on the protection runway https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/plane-lands-in-field-after-overshootingrunway-at-ellington-airport/2800326/). And, last October, a two-seat plane with engine issues that was headed to Bradley International Airport was forced to land at Ellington Airport and landed within a vacant field and the runway protection zone (CT Insider/ https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/Plane-forced-to-land-at-Ellington-Airport-after-17527675.php/).

If the proposed solar array location changes, please provide an updated plan and I'll share it again with the Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or to discuss further.

Best regards,

Lisa Houlihan
Lisa M. Houlihan, AICP, CZEO
Ellington Town Planner
PO Box 187 / 55 Main Street / Ellington, CT 06029
Phone: 860-870-3120 / Fax: 860-870-3122

Website: www.ellington-ct.gov Email: lhoulihan@ellington-ct.gov

